

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Reports: Smith
to announce
retirement**

Page 31

Running back Emmitt Smith



**Rumsfeld praises
troops serving in
Iraq, Afghanistan**

Page 14



**Study: Cell phone
use makes youths
drive like seniors**

Page 13

Volume 2, No. 297 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

Pentagon now aims for voluntary anthrax shots

Department tries to revive plan by invoking emergency measure Page 9



AP photos

Kidnapping of GI in Iraq appears to be hoax Page 6

An Iraqi militant Web site posted a photograph, left, of what it claimed was a kidnapped U.S. soldier and threatened to behead him. However, doubts were quickly raised about its authenticity, and the U.S. military said no soldiers were missing. The claim was suspected to be a hoax after California toy manufacturer Dragon Models USA said photos of the purported captive appeared to show one of its collectible action figures named "Cody," right (in a box). The doll originally was produced for sale at U.S. bases in Kuwait.

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Afghanistan, Kuwait,
Iraq, and Qatar giving
you up-to-date daily
news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at
49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email
Iraq@mail.strips.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Michael Jackson trial: The judge in the Michael Jackson molestation case ended the first stage of jury selection a day early, in part because of a surprisingly large number of prospective jurors who said they were willing to serve.

Santa Barbara County, Calif., Judge Rodney S. Melville said roughly 250 of the 430 prospects screened Monday and Tuesday were willing to serve during the six-month trial.

L.A. hospital accreditation: The only public hospital in South Los Angeles has lost its accreditation, meaning it also could lose its ability to train doctors and care for emergency psychiatric and low-income patients.

Martin Luther King Drew Medical Center in South Los Angeles lost the approval Tuesday after the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations denied a final appeal by Los Angeles County to halt the withdrawal.

The accrediting agency decided in September that the hospital did not meet its standards.

Homeland Security nominee: President Bush's nominee for secretary of Homeland Security told senators on Wednesday that if confirmed he would balance protecting the nation with preserving civil liberties.

Michael Chertoff, a federal appeals court judge, was expected to face tough questioning about any role he took while heading the Justice Department's Criminal Division in approving interrogation techniques and other mistreatment of detainees swept up in the terrorism investigation following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Chertoff, 51, highlighted his work as special counsel in the New Jersey legislature in examining racial profiling, and as a private attorney representing poor defendants.

NYC subway fire: Service was expected to be fully restored Wednesday to two busy New York subway lines knocked out by a fire last month, transit officials said. Officials initially estimated repairs would take up to five years.

Full non-peak service on the A and C lines was to be restored Wednesday morning and 70 percent of service was expected during the rush hours, New York City Transit president Lawrence Reuter said.

"There's still going to be some delays, and there will still be crowding," Reuter said.

Rather replacement: Dan Rather probably will be replaced with veteran "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer on an interim basis when Rather steps down next month as "CBS Evening News" anchor.

Schieffer's likely selection was first reported by USA Today and confirmed Wednesday by a CBS News executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He would be a bridge toward a new format for the evening news, mirrored in last place in the ratings behind NBC and ABC. CBS chief Leslie Moonves said last month that he was probably going to install a multi-anchor format on the broadcast.

World

Darfur crisis: The European Union on Wednesday backed having the International Criminal Court hear cases of alleged war crimes by government-backed militias or rebels in Sudan's Darfur region.

EU spokesman Amadeu Altafaj Tardio said EU nations were studying a report drafted by a U.N.-appointed panel that concluded Sudan's government and allied militias had likely committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.



Tsunami survivors: Murugupillai Jayarajah, center, a parent claimant of the tsunami survivor infant dubbed "Baby 81," cries as his wife, Jenita Jayarajah, holds the baby at a hospital in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday. The couple were arrested on charges of storming into the pediatric ward where the baby is being cared for and obstructing the doctors on duty. That came after a judge on Wednesday ordered DNA tests to determine whether they are the real parents, a process which could take many weeks. A district judge freed the couple on bail, and they were ordered to appear in court Thursday.

Iran nuclear program: The top official of the world's largest grouping of Muslim nations on Wednesday welcomed the recent elections in Iraq, but said the Islamic world does not need another "intervention" in Iran.

Ekmeladdin Ihsanoglu, secretary-general of the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference, said in Islamabad, Pakistan, the grouping favored an amicable solution of the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Tsunami relief: Bureaucratic bungling has blocked food, medicine and other necessities from reaching a stunning 70 percent of the 1 million Sri Lankans left destitute by the Asian tsunami disaster, a government official said Wednesday, as hungry and homeless survivors protested the lack of help.

In a troubling admission, Thilak Ranavirajah, chief of Sri Lanka's presidential task force to coordinate relief, said bureaucratic incompetence and ignorance of tsunami survivors had considerably slowed aid delivery, estimating that relief had reached only 30 percent of those who need it.

The Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami killed more than 30,000 in Sri Lanka and a further 960,000 people lost family members or their homes.

Sept. 11 trial: Sept. 11 suicide hijacker Mohamed Atta appeared "psychologically disturbed" and acted "distant" when encountered on the street, a former neighbor testified Wednesday in Hamburg, Germany, during the retrial of a Moroccan accused of providing logistical support for the attacks.

Indira Andrea Braun, 34, lived next door to Atta in a Hamburg suburb and said she saw defending attorney Mourad el Motassadeq visiting him. Atta also was visited by suicide pilots Ziad Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi and others suspected of involvement in the Sept. 11 plot, she said.

Braun was married to an Iranian Muslim and lived in an adjoining building to Atta for several years, but she said her neighbor never spoke to her.

Africa stabilization: Rwandan, Ugandan and Congolese officials will meet U.S. counterparts Wednesday to review efforts to sta-

bilize the Great Lakes region and normalize relations after more than a decade of fighting, officials in Kigali, Rwanda, said.

Cabinet ministers and senior security officials from the three African nations will meet at the U.S. State Department in Washington to review the security situation three months after they signed a peace agreement in Rwanda, said Gregoire Karambizi, secretary general in Rwanda's ministry of foreign affairs.

Representatives of the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations will join the discussions, hosted by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Constance Newman.

Germany-Israel relations: Germany's president told Israeli lawmakers in Jerusalem on Wednesday that he bows his head "in shame and humility" before the victims of the Nazi Holocaust, and he promised that Germany would wage a determined battle against anti-Semitism.

The president, Horst Koehler, also denounced Palestinian suicide bombings as indefensible acts of terrorism.

Germany is encouraged by recent Mideast peace moves and would try to help Israel and the Palestinians resume their negotiations, he said.

Serbia assassination suspect: A key suspect in the 2003 assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic arrived in Belgrade on Wednesday after being extradited from Greece.

Dejan Milenkovic, a crime figure known as Bugsy, was handed over in handcuffs at the Athens airport to Serb security officers who escorted him on a plane to Serbia-Montenegro.

After touchdown in Belgrade, Milenkovic was whisked away by heavy security in a motorcade of armored jeeps.

Milenkovic was arrested last July in the Greek port of Thessaloniki, after more than 15 months on the run.

The Greek Supreme Court had accepted a Serbian request for his extradition on Oct. 27.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Singrou: Vote illegitimate

Police chief in Mosul vows to 'wipe out' Iraqi insurgents

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's leading Sunni Muslim clerics said Wednesday the country's landmark elections lacked legitimacy because large numbers of Sunnis did not participate in the balloting, which the religious leaders had asked them to boycott.

Emboldened by the elections, which U.S. and Iraqi authorities cited as a victory for democracy, the police chief in Mosul demanded the insurgents hand over weapons within two weeks or he would "wipe out" anyone giving them shelter.

Large numbers of majority Shiite Muslims and Kurds participated in Sunday's election for a new National Assembly and regional parliaments. However, no results or turnout figures have been released. U.S. officials say participation appeared much lower in Sunni areas where the insurgency is strongest.

The low turnout has been blamed variously on the clerics' own boycott call and on fears of insurgent reprisals against those who voted.

In its first statement since the balloting, the Association of Muslim Scholars said the vote lacked legitimacy because of low Sunni participation. The association months ago urged Sunnis to shun the polls because of the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops, and insurgents threatened to kill anyone who voted.

Iraqi officials have acknowledged voting problems, including a ballot shortage in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul, which have substantial Sunni populations and which also may have contributed to a low Sunni turnout.

The level of insurgent violence has appeared to drop sharply after the election — similar to a short-duration decline in attacks which occurred after the transfer of sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government in June.

It is unclear whether the drop is due to disillusionment within insurgent ranks, the effects of the stringent pre-election security measures that are being slowly relaxed, or whether the militants have paused to reassess their strategy in light of the ballot.

With many Sunnis having stayed away, a ticket endorsed by the Shiite clergy is expected to gain the largest number of seats in the 275-member National Assembly, fol-



U.S. troops on Wednesday started removing some of the many concrete roadblocks set up in Baghdad for Election Day. An influential group is questioning the legitimacy of the election because of low voter turnout among Sunnis.

lowed by the Kurds and a list headed by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite.

Shiites comprise an estimated 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, and Shiite candidates were expected to fare best regardless of Sunni turnout. However, low Sunni participation was believed to have reduced the totals of other tickets.

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the Shiite Muslim who heads the ticket expected to have won the largest number of parliamentary seats, indicated in a Wednesday interview with the Associated Press that his group wants the post of prime minister in Iraq's new government.

Al-Hakim, a Shiite cleric with close ties to Iran, said representatives of all Iraqi groups should participate in writing the new constitution.

In its statement, the association said the election "lacks legitimacy because a large portion of these people who represent many groups have boycotted it." As a result, the group said the new leadership lacked a mandate to draft a new constitution and should be considered a temporary administration.

"We make it clear to the United Nations and the international community that they should not get involved in granting this election legitimacy because such a move will open the gates of evil," the statement said.

"We are going to respect the choice of those who voted and we will consider the new government — if all the parties participating in the political process agree on it — as a transitional government with limited powers."

plans," Allawi said of the rebels.

In recent weeks, Iraqi and U.S. forces have arrested what they describe as senior commanders of the al-Qaida in Iraq group, which is led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The group has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks on American troops and U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces.

Insurgents also promised to disrupt the election, but security measures were credited with minimizing election day bloodshed.

"The coming days and weeks

will show whether this retreat will continue or whether it is tactical because of the strike against them," Allawi told Al-Iraqiya television.

"I don't know if what happened is a decrease [in attacks] that will continue or will escalate, but the final outcome is that it is a failure. They will continue for months but this [insurgency] will end," Allawi said in a live interview.

"These dark forces will not be able to succeed."

He said that authorities had identified the location of some in-

Official voter turnout figures have yet to be released, but a Western diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity Wednesday said turnout appeared to have been "quite low" in Iraq's vast Anbar province, which includes the rebellious cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

He said that based on anecdotal accounts, turnout in three other provinces with large Sunni Arab populations was slightly higher but not more than 50 percent.

In Mosul, police Gen. Mohammed Ahmed al-Jubouri offered amnesty to insurgents who handed over their weapons within two weeks but promised tough action if they did not. In an interview with the provincial television station, al-Jubouri threatened "to wipe out any village that would hide weapons after the two-week period and shall any safe haven for the insurgents."

With the threat of election violence past, the U.S. Army handed over control Wednesday of several combat outposts to Iraqi security forces on the west side of Mosul.

Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, has been tense since insurgents rose up in November in support of rebels under siege in Fallujah, west of Baghdad. The entire 5,000-member police force deserted before U.S. and Iraqi troops regained control.

An Iraqi motorist was shot to death on the main desert highway west of Baghdad on Wednesday. A witness claimed U.S. troops opened fire when the vehicle tried to overtake an American military convoy. U.S. vehicles have often been targeted by car bombers who ram convoys.

A U.S. Army spokesman said he had no information on the shooting.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,434 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,096 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,296 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 987 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 10,770 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- No new deaths reported.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- Army Pfc. James H. Miller IV, 22, Cincinnati; killed Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, after an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Kuwait.
- Army Sgt. Lindsey T. James, 23, Urbana, Mo.; killed Saturday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated near his patrol; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Infantry Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.
- Army Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano, 21, Long Beach, Calif.; died Friday of a non-combat related injury in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.
- The following three soldiers were killed Friday in Baghdad when an explosive detonated after striking a nearby vehicle. They were assigned to the Army National Guard, 108th Engineer Battalion, 25th Brigade Combat Team, New Roads, La.
- Army Staff Sgt. Jonathan R. Reed, 25, Opelika, La.
- Army Spc. Michael S. Evans II, 22, Marrero, La.
- Army Spc. Christopher J. Ramsey, 20, Batchelor, La.

Allawi: Iraqi elections serve major blow to insurgents

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The success of the past weekend's elections dealt a major blow to insurgents, though they are likely to continue their attacks for some months before they are defeated, interim prime minister said Wednesday.

Ayad Allawi said that following Sunday's elections, activity by insurgents dropped sharply, but it is still too early to conclude whether that trend will continue.

"They might be reorganizing themselves and changing their

insurgent bases outside Iraq "but I cannot mention them now." He did not elaborate.

It was not clear if Allawi was referring to Syria. Iraqi and U.S. officials have repeatedly said that insurgents in Iraq have received support from members of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime who are said to be based in Syria.

Earlier in the day, Allawi, host of a meeting of leaders of 16 of the country's prominent political factions Wednesday, his office said in a statement.

The leaders, who included Pres-

ident Ghazi al-Yawer, Sunni elder politician Adnan Pachachi and Finance Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shiite, agreed to pursue the participation of all political, ethnic and religious groups in the new government, the statement said.

Allawi told Al-Iraqiya he will hold another meeting Thursday with groups that did participate in the elections and Monday with those who were not able to take part.

He said the meetings aims to form a coherent government and guarantee national unity.

Internet threat warns of al-Qaida attack

U.S. prisons in Iraq targeted in response to Camp Bucca riot deaths

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida will attack U.S. prisons in Iraq to take revenge for a riot in which four detainees were killed, an Internet statement purportedly from the terror group said Wednesday.

Monday's shooting of four detainees and wounding of another six prisoners at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq will "not go unpunished," said a statement in the name of al-Qaida in Iraq that was posted on an Islamic Web site.

The statement's authenticity could not be verified.

"We'll punish you, God willing. We'll respond decisively to your crimes," the statement said. "We say to our brothers in the prisons of the crusaders and the oppressors: Be patient, victory from God is coming soon."

The U.S. military in Iraq has said the riot at Camp Bucca interrupted center near Umm Qasr broke out after a routine search for contraband. The detainees threw rocks and fashioned weapons from materials in their compound.

"After about 45 minutes of escalating danger, lethal force" was used to quell the violence," the U.S. military said. The riot is

being investigated.

Later, the al-Qaida group issued another Internet threat, this time in video form and against the governor of Nineveh, Osama Yousef Kashmoola, and the local Nineveh radio station.

Three masked, armed men appeared on the video, with one clad in an explosives vest reading from a statement.

"We've had enough... you have

fought God and his Prophet... and fought the mujahideen," the man said. "We swear... that we are coming to slaughter you with swords, you and your entourage; for you are the people of apostasy and atheism."

Kashmoola escaped unharmed from a July assassination attempt after insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at his convoy.

Official says British plane had anti-missile protection

BY MICHAEL McDONOUGH

The Associated Press

LONDON — The British military transport plane that crashed in Iraq, killing all 10 servicemen on board, was equipped with anti-missile protection, the Ministry of Defense said Wednesday.

Investigators probing the downing of the Hercules C-130H north of Baghdad at the weekend are studying a videotape from guerrillas that appears to suggest the plane was shot down, a spokesman said.

The tape shows a missile being fired and the flaming wreckage of a plane, but there is no footage of a missile actually hitting the plane.

"The investigation will be complex, it may take some time to establish the exact cause of the crash," Prime Minister Tony Blair told lawmakers in the House of Commons. "It would be wrong for anyone at this point to speculate."

The Ministry of Defense spokesman said the Hercules had been carrying a defensive aids suite,

which an expert said was equipment designed to protect against surface-to-air missiles.

A defensive aids suite would likely include an infrared countermeasures system and other technology for diverting tracking missiles, as well as chaff and flares, said Damian Kemp, aviation editor at Jane's Defence Weekly.

Kemp cast doubt on the authenticity of the guerrilla video broadcast by Arab TV station al-Jazeera on Monday. It showed a finger pressing a button on a white box with wires, and then images of two missiles or rockets flying up into the air. The video did not show any impact with a plane. Instead, it cut to footage of people in street clothes walking through a plane's wreckage burning on the ground.

Al-Jazeera said the television station received the video from a group that called itself "The Green Brigade," part of the 1920 Revolution Brigade, a military wing of the National Islamic Resistance in Iraq.

"Most surface-to-air missiles would be struggling to hit anything at that distance," Kemp said.

Sentencing hearing begins



Michelle Davis, mother of U.S. Army Sgt. Javal S. Davis, center; father, Jonathan, right, and other family members arrive at the courthouse for Sgt. Davis' sentencing hearing in Fort Hood, Texas, on Wednesday. Davis pleaded guilty to battery and two other charges in connection with the prisoner abuse scandal at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Jesse Jackson joins effort to free hostage

Sunni turnout higher than expected in Iraq's election

Civilian employee Roy Hallums was kidnapped in Baghdad in November

The Associated Press

CORONA, California — The Rev. Jesse Jackson will try to help negotiate the release of a kidnapped American contractor who was snatched in Baghdad three months ago and recently appeared pleading for his life at gunpoint.

Susan Hallums, 52, turned to the civil rights leader after calling on politicians and President George W. Bush to help free her ex-husband, Roy Hallums, 56, who was kidnapped Nov. 1 at his home with Robert Tarongony of the Philippines.

The two worked for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army.

"I feel so drained, and this has given me more strength again to have more hope and faith," she said.

The United States government has a policy of not negotiating with terrorists or insurgents.

Jackson, who has successfully secured the release of hostages on several occasions since the 1980s, said he was confident the captors would cooperate.

"We hope that the captors will pick up on the spirit of what has happened the last few days in Iraq and not use Roy as a trophy," Jackson said, referring to Sunni's election in Iraq.

"While our government can't negotiate, someone who can ought to."

Jackson said he will appeal to religious leaders who know the hostage takers.

In a video aired Jan. 25, Roy Hallums was shown speaking with a rifle pointed at his head. "I am please asking for help because my life is in danger because it's been proved I worked for American forces," he said. The Filipino was not shown in the video.

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAHGDAD — Turnout in Sunni Arab areas during last weekend's landmark elections was higher than expected, with lines forming outside polling centers in insurgency stronghold cities like Fallujah and Mosul, the chief U.N. election expert in Iraq said Wednesday.

Carlos Valenzuela, however, cautioned in an interview with The Associated Press that forecasts for the Sunni areas were so low to begin with that even a higher-than-expected turnout would remain low.

No official turnout figures from Sunday have been released, although U.S. and Iraqi officials have acknowledged that participation among Sunni Arabs was low, either because of a boycott call by their clerics or fear of insurgent attacks.

A Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said turnout appeared to have been "quite low" in Iraq's vast Anbar

province, which includes the rebellious cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

He said that based on anecdotal accounts, turnout in three other provinces with large Sunni Arab populations was slightly higher but not more than 50 percent.

Senior politicians and election officials have said that up to 8 million of the country's 14 million eligible voters may have participated in the election for a 275-seat National Assembly.

Turnout was reported heavy in Shiite areas of the south and the Kurdish-ruled region in the north.

The question of turnout is crucial for the credibility of the vote since the elected assembly will appoint a new government and oversee the drafting of a permanent constitution. The constitution will

address such far-reaching issues as the role of Islam and public life and whether the country adopts a federal system instead of centralized rule.

Sunni Arabs are estimated at about 20 percent of Iraq's 26 million people and enjoyed a privileged position in Iraq for generations. Shiites form about 60 percent and have long complained of oppression.

Valenzuela, a Colombian who is a veteran of post-conflict elections

the world over, said not a single one of the 5,220 polling centers that opened Sunday had been forced to close. A handful of polling stations never opened because of intimidation and threats.

He said many voters waited until the afternoon to vote, preferring to gauge the scale of violence before venturing out of their homes.

"I think what we saw on Sunday was very encouraging."

Carlos Valenzuela
U.N. election expert

Building a fighting force for Afghanistan

Afghan army has made tremendous strides in the past three years, U.S. officials say

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — One soldier is satisfied, while another isn't so pleased with the way things have gone for him in western Afghanistan.

Both have concerns, mainly over money, career paths and family support. Yet each is proud to wear the uniform and appreciate the respect it engenders in their countrymen.

"I want to serve my country," said Pvt. Abdul Latif, who has been struggling with his new job. The two men — Samiullah, a sergeant who uses only one name, and Latif — don't work for Uncle Sam.

Rather, they are part of a grand undertaking known as the Afghanistan National Army. It's a work in progress, one that will pay huge dividends if Afghanistan and its allies — most notably the United States — can pull it off.

"There are many problems in the ANA," said Afghan army Brig. Gen. Fazil Ahmad Sayar, the chief of staff of the 207th Corps based in Herat, "but we hope [it] will get better in the future."

While often compared to its Iraqi army counterpart, the smaller Afghan force has taken tremendous strides in the past three years, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

The Afghan army still has some distance to cover, but the road of apprenticeship doesn't appear to be as long or as problematic, providing the United States and its allies continue the effort, dubbed Task Force Phoenix.

"Iraqis 'are not bred warriors like these guys,'" said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard Moorhead, the task force commander. Afghans "have the will to fight," he added, "and that's what makes them so good."

Or, so dangerous, if the armed Afghan is fighting against coalition forces.

Afghan fighters "won't hesitate to engage us," said Capt. Mike Berdy, a 25th Infantry Division company commander based near the Pakistan border.

But after two decades of fighting, many in Afghanistan seem weary, based on conversations with Afghans in the south, east and west.

"War has destroyed my coun-



SHANNA RODENBERG/U.S. Army

During urban warfare training, Staff Sgt. Greg Huffman shows members of the 2nd Brigade, Afghan National Army Central Corps the proper way to maneuver along a building. U.S. military advisors are working closely with Afghan forces in their homeland, helping to train about 20,000 soldiers. Eventually, Afghans will take over the training and continue to build their army.



"War has destroyed my country."

Sgt. Samiullah



"I want to serve my country."

Pvt. Abdul Latif

try," said Samiullah, 18, a platoon sergeant with the 207th Corps, headquartered in Herat.

"The Afghan people are happy," Khoshhal Murad, a United Nations interpreter in Kabul, said. "We have a new government, and a new army."

That new army now has roughly 18,000 combat soldiers, accord-

ing to Moorhead. More than 3,000 Afghans are in a three-step, 20-week training regimen that concludes with a unit assignment.

By September 2007, Afghan troop strength should reach the goal of 45,000.

Launched in June 2003, the task force started slowly, focused for the first year primarily on the

infantry. Recruits were tested and evaluated to determine if they were junior enlisted, senior enlisted or officer material. Additionally, U.S., French and British trainers kept an eye out for recruits who would one day take over as instructors.

About a year ago, the task force turned over basic-training duties to those handpicked candidates. Moorhead said the plan is to do the same this April with the command and staff school, which the French army oversees. Later this year, the British will hand their clipboard to Afghan instructors chosen to conduct the senior non-commissioned officer school.

Other countries assisting are Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Mongolia, New Zealand and Romania.

While the focus has been on combat forces, incrementally the coalition has been building up the support sector — such as training, logistics and communications — and it has been filling billets within the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense. By 2007, there will be about 3,000 troops and civilians assigned to the ministry and

The Afghan National Army at a glance

Current troop strength:	21,000
Troop strength in 2007:	45,000
Initial training:	20 weeks (basic and specialty training)
Basic pay:	\$70 (for a private); \$900 (for a general)
Future:	Will develop an air force to move troops around the country

roughly 21,000 to 22,000 on the support side.

In addition, various commands and agencies are being created, including a new military academy that will open its doors next month to 120 cadets.

"It's growing gradually," Moorhead said, "but it's growing with good people."

The ANA consists of five corps. The first was the 201st based in Kabul, which became fully staffed in May. In September, four regional corps came on line in Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Other components are falling into place. Two months ago, the Afghans, with coalition input, drafted a military justice code.

"This army has to be sustainable because one of these days we will leave," Moorhead said.

Sayar, the chief of staff for the Herat Corps, is one of the Afghan soldiers helping to make that happen. Through an interpreter, he ticked off a list of issues his staff is addressing, from pay and leave to supply and medicine.

But the most significant thing Afghan military leaders can do, he said, is "to keep the promises made to recruits."

Such talk might be enough to keep Latif in the fold.

Based in Herat, Latif wants to serve, but said his \$160-a-month salary is barely enough to support his wife and six kids. A seasoned fighter, the 32-year-old driver/mechanic is weighing his options. He may join the quick reaction force — and nearly double his salary — or he may quit, go home to Kabul and open his own garage.

If the army offered adequate family housing and more money, said Latif, who fought the Taliban as a member of the Northern Alliance, "I would stay forever."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.espi.es.osd.mil

For Afghan soldiers and officers, training never ends

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

HERAT, Afghanistan — When an Afghan soldier gets assigned to a regional command, his combat curriculum doesn't end.

From corps to company level, Task Force Phoenix is dispatching training teams to Afghan units in the field to instruct officers and enlisted personnel on the finer points of soldiering. The largest

contingent of trainers in western Afghanistan is 16 miles south of the provincial capital of Herat, and its commander is U.S. Army Col. Randy Smith.

"When we first came out here," Smith said, the Afghan "Central Corps [in Kabul] was the only game in town."

A few months prior to the October presidential election, the Afghan transitional government in Kabul began deploying the Afghanistan National Army to other regions. In Herat, the timing was most ad-

vantageous, because Afghan forces, a few trainers and the U.S. Army's 3rd Squad, 4th Cavalry Regiment, were on hand to help quell a Sept. 12 riot.

Smith, who arrived afterward, said since then his training team has had to adapt on the fly, mixing training with actual missions of the 207th Corps.

Like the other Afghan regional commands, save for Central Corps in Kabul, the 207th formally raised its flag in September. A year from now, Smith said, the

unit in Herat should have its full complement.

Adjacent to the current camp, work has begun on a \$63 million ANA base that will serve as the regional headquarters. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers envisions more than 100 buildings, including offices, barracks, a power plant, wastewater facility, hospital and sports field.

"It's not often you get to make history," said Joe Haugen, the resident engineer.

SEE TRAINING ON PAGE 6

Web site 'hostage' might be elaborate hoax

California model maker says 'kidnapped GI' looks just like its action figure 'Cody'

BY MONTE MORIN
Los Angeles Times

A militant group's claim that it had kidnapped a U.S. soldier in Iraq and planned to behead him was suspected of being a hoax Tuesday, after a California toy manufacturer said photos of the purported captive on an insurgent Web site appeared to show one of its collectible dolls.

A group calling itself the Mujahedeen Brigades posted a photograph that appeared to show a stern-faced U.S. soldier sitting at gunpoint before a black banner with Arabic script. The posting called the soldier "John Adam."

U.S. military authorities said aspects of the photograph raised doubts: The soldier's vest, for instance, resembled no such equipment issued by the Army, and the claim on the Web site about the kidnapping appeared to contain misspellings. Nevertheless, they asked for a full account-

ing of military personnel in Iraq. "No units have reported anyone missing," Staff Sgt. Nick Minecci of the military's press office in Baghdad told The Associated Press.

In the grainy photograph, the figure appears dressed in desert camouflage and leans stiffly against a concrete wall with his hands behind him. He wears a bulky vest and green kneecaps. The barrel of an American automatic rifle is pointed at his head, but no one is pictured holding the weapon.

An executive for Dragon Models USA Inc. said the soldier looked exactly like a

foot-tall G.I. Joe-type doll the company manufactured for sale at U.S. bases in Kuwait.

"This looks like our doll," said Liam Cusack, a company spokesman. "We don't want to say 100 percent that it is our doll, but it does bear a striking resemblance. We're hoping that this is actually a hoax."

Cusack said the doll appeared to be the black version of its "Cody" action figure, one of several thousand sold to U.S. military bases in Kuwait about three years ago. The dolls are minutely detailed and frequently used in dioramas of war scenes.

Cusack said he was alerted to the photograph Tuesday morning by a retailer who saw the photo on a news Web site. Cusack said he had not had contact with the U.S. military about the matter.

"I don't even know how to contact them," Cusack said.

If in fact the photo is a hoax, it would be the second such sham that has received

widespread attention in the media.

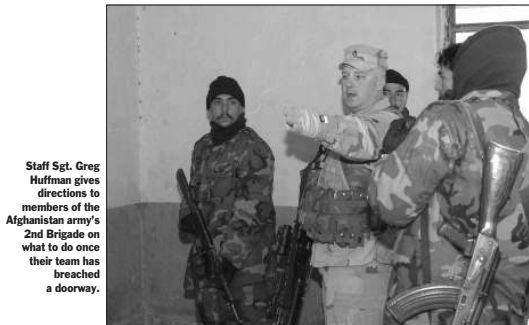
In August, television stations around the world broadcast a video of a 22-year-old San Francisco man who faked his own beheading. The man, Benjamin Vanderford, said he had circulated the video to show how easy it was to fabricate execution videos.

The Mujahedeen Brigades claimed responsibility for two abductions last April. One involved three Japanese, who were later released, and the other a Brazilian engineer. It was unclear Tuesday whether that group, or someone else, was behind the apparently fake photos.

To date, only one U.S. soldier has been confirmed taken hostage by insurgents: Pfc. Keith M. Maupin, 20, of Batavia, Ohio. Maupin was shown in a hostage video in April. A second video in June purported to show his execution, but the military still lists him as missing.



Cody, or John Adam?



Staff Sgt. Greg Huffman gives directions to members of the Afghan National Army's 2nd Brigade on what to do once their team has breached a doorway.

Training: U.S. troops teaching Afghan soldiers by example

TRAINING, FROM PAGE 5

"It's basically a city for 4,000 soldiers. Pretty cool, huh?"

Back at the temporary facility, Smith and his deputy, Lt. Col. Bert Owens, talked of the challenges of transforming a band of tough but unpolished warriors.

"We are advisers," Owens said. "We don't command them."

One of the toughest tests is changing a centralized mind-set that devalued empowerment, initiative and improvisation. Owens likened it to a sandlot football team that can flawlessly execute plays etched in the dirt, but gets caught flat-footed when its play breaks down.

Another flaw can be a lack of preparation and prevention.

On Dec. 31, the trainers left their compound for a meeting with an Afghan National Police commander in Shindand, a town 60 miles away. The Afghan com-

mander climbed into his vehicle and joined the convoy. A few miles down the road, a tire on the commander's car went flat.

Smith said he uses instances such as that as training tools. In this case, he deftly emphasized to his Afghan charges the need to inspect vehicles the day before a trip.

Sometimes he'll say very little, preferring to lead by example. One day, prior to a mission, Smith had one of his soldiers haul a table outside in plain view of the Afghans housed nearby. One by one, the Americans performed a functions check on their M-16s. The Afghans watched from afar, and now often go through the same routine.

"We demonstrate techniques," Smith said. "We demonstrate actions, and they pick up on it."

Other lessons are taught over time.

Eventually, Afghan soldiers will assume every role in the army, including paying troops. But in the beginning at Herat, it was Sgt. 1st Class Derrick Kelly. On that first payday, Kelly sat at a table and a queue formed outside his door. Suddenly, there was commotion and shouting.

The Afghan officers "just pushed the [enlisted soldiers] out of the way because they were officers," Smith recalled.

Kelly coolly gathered his things and walked out.

The Afghan officers were agitated, perhaps because an enlisted soldier upstaged them. Perhaps it was because the soldier was black and, in the past, Afghans have fought many battles along ethnic lines.

Later, Smith explained to the Afghan officers that it doesn't matter if they are first or last in line — their money will be there.



PHOTOS BY SHIANNA RODENBERG/U.S. Army

Sgt. 1st Class Kohlheim discusses operations with members of 2nd Brigade, Afghan National Army Central Corps. U.S. military advisors have worked closely with Afghan forces in Afghanistan, helping train about 20,000 soldiers. Eventually, Afghans will take over the training and continue to build their Army.

Owens, who is black, said he, Smith and other members of the Regional Command Assistance Group-West, used that instance and others to show how the cultural diversity of the U.S. military is an advantage.

"We point that out to them," Owens said, "so that they realize you've got to work as a team."

Senior Afghan leaders back in Kabul have grasped that concept. The Afghan Ministry of Defense

is consciously building battalions along ethnically mixed lines.

The issue of ethnicity in the Afghan army was posed separately to two soldiers. Both soldiers looked somewhat perplexed when it was raised.

"These things are in the past," said a platoon sergeant named Samullah. "We are one army. There are no [ethnic] divisions."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@gmail.com, estripes.05d.mil

WWW.HARRISDIAMONDS.COM

- shop on line -

For the CREDIT You Deserve

We ship your diamond gift anywhere you choose!

10 & 14 kt. Gold and Genuine Diamonds

CUPID SAYS:
"ORDER NOW FOR
VALENTINE'S DAY!"

50 Years of Satisfying the Military

Bridal Duo



\$47. Twice Mo.
\$999.

Wedding Trio

Her's

\$46. Twice Mo.
\$979.



His'

\$31. Twice Mo.
\$649.



Ladies Gift

\$11. Twice Mo.
\$229.



Men's Fashions



\$23. Twice Mo. / \$419.

• No Money Down

• No Payment for 90 Days

• Up to 18 months to pay

plus ...
FREE

• Shipping

• Gift Cards & Gift Wrapping

Full Catalog Available on line!

**YOU MUST BE
SATISFIED!!**

Engagement

\$70. Twice Mo.
\$1,499.



HARRIS
JEWELRY

All Your Gift Needs Online 24/7

www.HARRISDIAMONDS.com

free catalog available

631-348-0303 • 800-539-3575

Harris Jewelry
145 Sycamore Lane
Islandia, NY 11749

Wedding Bands

\$47. Twice Mo.
\$999.



**Gifts
from the
Heart**

1st ID pays tribute to GI killed at U.S. bar

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Staff Sgt. Terrence Balkisson survived the rigors of Iraq, only to fall victim to the mean streets of New York.

Stunned friends from the 1st Infantry Division's headquarters company gathered Wednesday at the Leighton Barracks chapel in Würzburg to remember the supply sergeant, three weeks after a man gunned him down outside a bar in Brooklyn.

"He had arguably one of the most difficult jobs in the company," said his commanding officer,

Capt. J.R. West, in comments from Iraq read at Wednesday's service. "Yet his answer to everything was 'Yes sir,'" and somehow he would complete the mission."

Balkisson grew up on the island of Trinidad, the oldest of 13 children. His family immigrated to New York when he was 16, and



Balkisson

two years later he enlisted in the Army after earning his general equivalency degree.

He served tours at Camp Casey, South Korea, and Fort Stewart, Ga., as a unit supply specialist before arriving at 1st ID. He deployed with the unit to Iraq last spring, where he worked at Forward Operating Base Danger, the division's name for the palace complex in former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

Balkisson had flown home to New York for his midyear leave just before Christmas. He had spent almost two weeks visiting his large extended family and, just

before he was scheduled to return to Iraq, had attended a private birthday party at a Caribbean nightclub with two of his brothers. The New York Times reported.

About 5:20 a.m. outside the bar, according to news media accounts, a man opened fire on Balkisson and one of his brothers — possibly in a fit of jealousy after Balkisson accidentally bumped into the man's girlfriend. Two days later, a man turned himself in to police and was charged with second-degree murder.

The killing stunned both family and friends, who described Balkisson as a devoted family man who would never seek trou-

ble. His friends remembered his sunny, upbeat personality and always-present smile.

"Anyone who ever spent time with Staff Sgt. Balkisson was impacted by his kindness," West said in his eulogy. "No matter what the situation, after listening to [him], you couldn't help but laugh and smile."

Balkisson is survived by his wife, April; his two children, Aaron and Jayda; and his two stepchildren, Briana and Trevor; who live in Brooklyn. He was buried at a military cemetery in Marietta, Ga.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Troops mourn 31 victims of Iraq helo crash

The Associated Press

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — U.S. troops held a memorial Wednesday for 31 servicemembers killed in the crash of a transport helicopter during a swirling sandstorm in Iraq's vast western desert — the U.S. military's single biggest loss of life here since the March 2003 invasion.

Filing past their fallen comrades' combat boots, rifles and helmets, Marines took turns kneeling in front of the display. One Marine wept, burying his face in one of his hands. Others hugged each other.

A soldier played taps on a bright gold trumpet as hundreds of other troops stood in stiff salutes and two helicopter gunships flew overhead during a bright blue sky.

The CH-53E Super Stallion transport helicopter crashed shortly after midnight on Jan. 26 during a fierce sandstorm near the Syrian border, killing 30 Marines and one Navy sailor.

The hulking aircraft was transporting troops to this base near the Iraqi town of Rutbah for security operations in preparation for last weekend's elections. The cause of the crash is still under investigation, but officials have said it does not appear the helicopter was downed by hostile fire.

During Wednesday's memorial, a Marine strummed on a guitar before placing the instrument beside the row of upright rifles.



Above: A U.S. Marine cries during the memorial service Wednesday at Camp Korean Village, Iraq, for the 31 U.S. troops killed Jan. 26 when their helicopter crashed.

Left: A Marine placed a guitar beside the row of rifles during the ceremony.

AP photos

Bomb found near Incirlik

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkish authorities have discovered a bomb near a southern Turkish military base used by the United States, a U.S. military official said Wednesday.

A private CNN-Turk television said the bomb, containing 11 pounds of explosives, was found in the garden of a bar near the entrance of Incirlik Air Base.

The bomb, partially made of the explosive TNT, was defused by Turkish police late Tuesday, the station said.

A U.S. military official confirmed that a bomb was discovered but deferred further questions to the Turkish authorities.

The TV station said an explosion could have caused substantial damage in the area where a number of bars and cafes are located. It was unclear if the bomb could cause damage at the base.

From The Associated Press

Suit dismissed in midshipman's fatal fall

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A judge dismissed a wrongful death lawsuit against the U.S. Navy that was filed by the family of a Naval Academy student who died in a fall from his dormitory window.

Midshipman John Paul Ruggiero, 20, of Gouldsboro, Pa., tumbled 53 feet from a window at the academy in Annapolis, Md., following a night of off-campus drinking in August 2002.

Many lawyers argued that the legal claim, filed by the midshipman's parents, is barred by a doctrine that protects the military from being sued over injuries to servicemembers on active duty.

The rule was generally intended to prevent military commanders from being hauled into court for ordering troops into dangerous situations, and lawyers for the family have argued that it shouldn't apply to Ruggiero's death.

In his Jan. 20 ruling that dismissed the fami-

ly's lawsuit, U.S. District Judge A. Richard Caputo wrote that Ruggiero "would not have fallen from his window ... had it not been incident to his status as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy."

The lawsuit questioned whether getting into bed was a military act and argued the Academy was obligated to provide safe housing.

Ruggiero's family claimed the huge, nearly floor-to-ceiling windows in the dormitory were unsafe, and that the window in their son's room lacked a screen. They also complained that academy officials were aware that students were routinely using their sails to hang laundry, or as a first step into their bunk.

The family's attorney, David Tomaszewski, said he would appeal to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

A Navy investigation determined Ruggiero had a blood-alcohol content of 0.11 percent when he died and ruled the death accidental. At the time, the legal blood-alcohol limit for driving was 0.08 percent in Maryland and 0.10 percent in Pennsylvania.

Sanchez briefs 1st ID families on GIs' return

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — A top U.S. military official in Europe toured several bases in Germany this week to talk with family members about the return of thousands of 1st Infantry Division soldiers this spring.

In visits to Würzburg, Bamberg and Vilseck on Monday and Tuesday, V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez talked with community members about the Army's program to reintroduce the unit's 12,000 deployed soldiers to life away from the war zone in Iraq. Last month he visited other 1st ID locations, including Schweinfurt and Katterbach.

V Corps is the 1st ID's parent command. Sanchez spoke about the soldiers' seven-day mandatory readjustment program, the block leave period and long-term services available to returning soldiers and their families, said Army O'Connor, a family readiness adviser who attended the Bamberg meeting on Tuesday.

He said Sanchez didn't cover any topics that family members weren't already familiar with, but she said it was reassuring to hear top officials pledge to take care of returning soldiers and make themselves available for questions.

"He answered a lot of questions and told us whatever the issue [that may arise], we'll work through it, which was nice to hear," O'Connor said.

Sanchez did not announce any specifics on the timing of the return for units in the 1st ID, said Capt. Jon Drake, rear detachment commander for the division's 82nd Engineer Battalion, other than to say "everything was on track."

Stars and Stripes was not allowed to attend a similar briefing Tuesday afternoon at Vilseck, and Army officials were tipped off about the meeting's specifics.

Three people who attended the meeting and were contacted by the newspaper said the general gave the impression his comments were not for public consumption. All refused to comment further.

V Corps chief of media relations, Hilde Patton, said the Vilseck meeting was intended to be the same as the Bamberg and Würzburg briefings, but she said she could not provide information on its content, or on any appearance that its details were confidential.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murray@mail.estripes.osd.mil

DOD seeks to renew anthrax vaccinations

Shots would be administered on voluntary basis

By MARC KAUFMAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has taken a major step toward reviving its controversial program of giving anthrax vaccine to servicemembers, invoking emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act that allow use of unapproved drugs and vaccines.

The Department of Defense said use of the vaccine will be voluntary for now, in contrast to the mandatory program that was blocked by a federal judge in October on the grounds that the vaccine was never properly cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

The special authorization follows determinations by the Defense Department and former Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson that a formal anthrax emergency exists for troops stationed in some nations abroad.

"The Department's current intelligence community assessments establish that there is a heightened risk for U.S. military forces of attack with anthrax," a DOD official said. He said the assessment applies to Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea in particular.

The emergency measure marks a dramatic turn in the Defense Department's long-running efforts to establish and maintain a mandatory vaccination program to protect against inhaled anthrax. Six former or current soldiers sued the department in 2003 over the program, and U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled last fall that the vaccinations were illegal and permanently enjoined their use.

In an order posted online Monday, however, acting FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford said that after conferring with the National Institutes of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, he had authorized the use of the vaccine under the BioShield Act. The order set several conditions — that soldiers be educated about the vaccine and given the opportunity to refuse — but did not present any other obstacles to renewing the program.

Crawford wrote that the "known and potential benefits of [the vaccine] outweigh the known and potential risks," and that there is no adequate substitute for it.

A DOD official said Tuesday the issue will be revisited in Sullivan's courtroom before the vaccination program resumes. The process, he said, "could take some time."

That assessment was reinforced Tuesday by a lawyer for the six soldiers, who said he would go to court to oppose any effort to quickly revive the program. John Michels said the injunction remains in force despite the emergency authorization and despite the department's new willingness to accept a voluntary vaccination program.

Michels also argued that the emergency provisions of the BioShield Act were being misused. "The emergency here is that the department lost the case in court, and invoking an emergency on that basis is a terrible precedent," he said.

Anthrax is a deadly infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Early symptoms may resemble a common cold, but after several days the symptoms can progress to severe breathing problems and shock. Inhalation anthrax usually is fatal; a cutaneous form that affects the skin is less lethal.

A month after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, letters tainted with anthrax bacteria infected people in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Florida and Washington. The still unsolved attacks killed five people, sickened 17 and put about 10,000 on antibiotics.



SANDRA JONTZ/Stars and Stripes file photo

The Defense Department is moving toward reviving anthrax vaccinations for troops on a voluntary basis, citing emergency provisions of the Project BioShield Act. DOD intelligence says there is a heightened risk of attack with anthrax in Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea.

Michels said he was pleased by the department's change of position making the program voluntary, because that had been a central goal of the lawsuit. "But we're concerned that this may be a half-step that will later lead to a resumption of mandatory vaccinations," he said.

Asked if the Pentagon would like to return to a mandatory program, the spokesman left the possibility open. He said a major consideration in accepting a voluntary program was that the emergency authorization is good for only six months unless the FDA extends it.



CONSTRUCTION TEAM

ADMINISTRATION CONSTRUCTION

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

STEEL PLATING

SPRUNG STRUCTURE

WE SPECIALIZE IN PROVIDING SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE U.S. MILITARY IN IRAQ AND OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

As a Prime Vendor since 1998, we can back up our promises with thousands of deliveries for your critical mission. Your confidence in **Service Solutions** is rewarded when we deliver not only products — but the services and maintenance contracts necessary, using vendor brands and manpower you trust.

The bottom line is this:

We have the resources to deliver **whatever** you need, **wherever** you want, **whenever** you ask.

Last minute you say?
Small order? Hard to find?
CONTACT US!



www.ServiceSolutions.com

 Service Solutions

Max Shaw max@servicesolutions.com
Tina Res tina@servicesolutions.com
Headquarters in Kuwait
Offices in Iraq, Qatar, Dubai, Bahrain, Afghanistan

+ 965 224 129 5

+ 965 224 129 6

+ 965 224 129 7

+ 965 769 3575

+ 965 983 8066

+ 965 482 7695 fax

Service Solutions is a division of TWI — an American-owned company intricately involved with serving the US Military throughout the world.
www.twipw.com

IN THE WORLD

Pope stabilized, resting in hospital

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II had a restful night and his condition stabilized after he was rushed to a hospital with breathing trouble, but he will spend several more days at the clinic to recover from the flu, the Vatican said Wednesday.

Around the world, Roman Catholics passed to pray for the health of the 84-year-old pontiff.

Tests showed John Paul II's heart and respiration were normal, and he got several hours' rest after being taken by ambulance to the hospital Tuesday night, papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said.

The pontiff was running a slight fever from the flu and would get "a few more days" at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic for treatment of respiratory problems, he said.

"There is no cause for alarm," Navarro-Valls said.

The pope has Parkinson's disease, and Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragán, the Vatican's top health official, told Associated Press Television News that the slumping pontiff's inability to hold his back up straight has left his lungs and diaphragm in a crushed position.

Navarro-Valls insisted the pope had never lost consciousness, and he did not need a tracheotomy to insert a tube into his windpipe to help him breathe. He said John Paul participated from his hospital bed in a Mass celebrated by his secretary in the room.

Prayers echo across Poland

WADOWICE, Poland — People in Pope John Paul II's Polish hometown prayed Wednesday for their country's most famous son as coverage of his hospitalization dominated front pages and airwaves.

Well-wishers prayed at St. Mary's church in Wadowice, a town of some 20,000 people, where the young Karol Wojtyla was christened and attended Mass.

"I wish the Holy Father good health," said Maria Pasmik, 46, a housewife. "I know the situation has improved and I pray that we can see or hear him again in Wadowice."

The pope flew over Wadowice in a helicopter while on a 2002 visit. He last visited in 1999, when he attended a Mass at the church and chatted with the crowd gathered outside.

Navarro-Valls characterized Tuesday night's hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary." Trying to appear reassuring, Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, told The Associated Press early Wednesday the pope had the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis — inflammation of the windpipe — and suffered a "certain diffi-

"I listen to the radio news on his health," said Tadeusz Kolber, 80, a retired taxi driver, who said he was optimistic that the pope would soon visit again. "Next year he will come for sure," he said.

Former President Lech Wałęsa, the founder of the Solidarity movement and a devout Roman Catholic, called for prayers for the pontiff. "Let's pray for our own health and especially for the pope's health, and everything will be OK," Wałęsa told TVN24 television.

Mieczysław Malinski, a Polish priest who has been a friend of the pope since childhood, told TVN24 that John Paul II is "a strong person" and "will get well, and very soon."

— The Associated Press

culty in breathing." He denied Italian news reports that John Paul had a CAT scan at the hospital and was taken to intensive care.

In a separate statement, the Vatican said the pope also experienced a "larynx spasm crisis."

The spasms likely were a complication from the respiratory illness the pope has had. Experts said it was possible his Parkinson's disease, which makes muscle control difficult, made it harder for him to breathe.



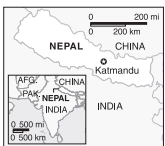
Henryk Zbino, with his grandson Olaf, passes by a statue of Pope John Paul II in Warsaw, Poland, on Wednesday.

From John Paul's native Poland to Manila to Moscow to the United States, the faithful gathered to pray for his recovery. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Americans' "thoughts and prayers are with the Holy Father."

Nepal appoints 10-member cabinet

BY TIM SULLIVAN

The Associated Press



SOURCE: Overseas Development Institute

KATMANDU, Nepal — King Gyanendra announced a 10-member Cabinet dominated by his own supporters on Wednesday, one day after he dismissed Nepal's government, declared emergency rule and virtually cut his nation off from the world. An official later said the new government would reach out to the country's Maoist rebels to renew peace talks.

Dozens of politicians have been arrested and many more have gone underground to avoid detention, an opposition figure said, as extra riot police and soldiers paraded the streets of the capital, Kathmandu, where civil liberties were severely curtailed.

Gyanendra will head the newly appointed Cabinet, state radio said in a report that gave few details other than the new body's members.

"The king has expressed confidence that everyone will support and cooperate with the new Cabinet," the palace said in a statement.

Shortly after the king swore in

his new Cabinet, Home Minister Dan Bahadur Shahi said the government soon would be approaching the Maoist rebels to renew peace talks.

"The king has the chief executive authority now, so it will be easier for the rebels to come for peace talks. It is what they have been wanting," Shahi said in comments carried on state radio.

The Maoists, who control much of rural Nepal, broke off peace talks in August 2003. The rebels balked at later invitations from the government of ousted Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to renew the talks, insisting that real authority remained in the hands of the king.

The king on Tuesday sacked Deuba's interim government, accusing it of failing to hold parliamentary elections or control the Maoist insurgency and pledging to do both himself within three years.

World leaders condemned the power grab — Gyanendra's second in three years — saying it undermined democracy and the fight against the insurgency.

Sharon, Abbas agree to summit

BY AMY TEIBEL

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Wednesday accepted Egypt's bold offer to host a long-awaited summit between them next week, raising hopes of a breakthrough in Mideast peace efforts.

The Egyptian president and

Jordan's king will host the summit on Tuesday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, intended to shore up tentative gains before Israeli and Palestinian leaders. The third-party presence "will be insurance of success for a summit," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

In recent days, there has been increasing bickering between Israelis and Palestinians over what issues to raise in an Mahmoud Abbas-Ariel Sharon meeting, and disagreements remain over the scope of a Palestinian prisoner release, the fate of Palestinian fugitives and a West Bank troop redeployment. At times, it appeared the summit could be put off.

However, with Egypt's invitation and the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the region over the weekend, the

two sides are under growing pressure to settle their differences over the agenda.

Top Israeli and Palestinian officials were to hold a final preparatory meeting Thursday.

The trip to Egypt would mark a major achievement for Sharon, whom Mubarak steadfastly has refused to meet since the hard-line Israeli politician became

prime minister in 2001. Israeli radio stations described the invitation to Egypt as "historic."

The invitation was offered during a hastily arranged meeting Wednesday between Sharon and

Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman. A day before, Suleiman held talks in Cairo with the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Khaled Masha'al and Ramadan Shalah.

The intelligence chief's unexpected trip to Jerusalem signaled that he made progress in winning a promise from the Palestinian militant groups to halt attacks on Israel.

Israelis and Palestinians have taken major steps toward a cease-fire in recent days but have not yet agreed on a mutual truce declaration.

U.S. to boost support for Palestinians

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Eager to help Mideast peacemaking and combat Palestinian poverty, President Bush is preparing to boost U.S. support for upgrading security forces and for the Palestinian economy.

Training needs to be improved, and for peacemaking with Israel to have a chance to succeed the Palestinians need more jobs and better facilities. Bush administration officials have concluded as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepares to visit the region early next week.

Edward Abington, former U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem who is a consultant to the Palestinians, estimated Wednesday that Bush and Rice were prepared to be generous in dealing with a "financial crisis" on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Abington, in an interview, said \$50 million already approved by Congress, would be devoted to programs to create jobs, and that up to \$150 million would be sought from Congress in the current fiscal year for general assistance to the Palestinians.



Abbas



Sharon

Nuclear investigation

KIEV, Ukraine — A senior law-maker on Wednesday called for Ukraine's prosecutor-general to investigate alleged sales of nuclear-capable cruise missiles to Iran and China in violation of international nonproliferation treaties.

The call, made in a letter by Hrihory Onchenko, follows allegations made in a letter to new President Viktor Yushchenko.

Onchenko is a parliament member allied with Prime Minister-designate Yulia Tymoshenko and is a reserve colonel in Ukraine's intelligence service.

Yushchenko has promised a thorough investigation of corruption and misdeeds that allegedly flourished during his predecessor's 10 years as president.

Kabul brothel industry

KABUL, Afghanistan — Policy raided five suspected brothels in the Afghan capital and said they would report more than 25 Chinese women after the government ordered a crackdown on Kabul's growing vice industry, an official said Wednesday.

Abdul Jabar Sabat, a legal adviser to the Interior Ministry, said five out of 17 establishments checked on Tuesday were brothels masquerading as Chinese restaurants.

Dozens of bars, restaurants and guesthouses have sprung up around Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Germany terror raid

BERLIN — German police carried out a series of raids Wednesday against individuals suspected of providing financial and other support to Islamic extremist activities outside the country, authorities said.

Thirty-three apartments and four businesses were searched in the early morning raids centered in the southern state of Bavaria, police said.

The action was directed primarily against 24 people suspected of supporting Islamic extremist activities.

The individuals were aged 20 to 66, and all are legal residents in Germany, police said.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY RINGS SALE
ARMY • NAVY • COAST GUARD • MARINES

Balfour

We Won't Be Understood!
100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Design Your Ring with Infinite Options

shop
DanielsJewelers.com

Daniels

Experts say diseases kill 1.3 million kids each year

BY TERESA CERIOJANO

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — More than 1 million children around the world die each year from three diseases that cause diarrhea, pneumonia and neurological disabilities but little is being done to prevent them, health experts said Wednesday.

More than 1.3 million children under the age of five die yearly from rotavirus, pneumococcal pneumonia and Japanese encephalitis, all of which can be prevented by vaccinations, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization said.

Most of the deaths are in developing countries, about half of them in Asia, said Hans Kvist of GAVI's pneumococcal disease program.

He said the scale of the prob-

lem dwarfs the Asian tsunami that struck 11 countries on Dec. 26, 2004, killing between 158,000 to 178,000 people. With estimates of up to 142,000 missing, more than a quarter-million people may have been lost.

"It actually translates to four tsunamis annually happening and it is a continuous disaster going on and nobody notices, which is something we have to change," Kvist said.

Kvist said awareness of the diseases among decision makers "is basically non-existent."

John Wecker, director of GAVI's Rotavirus Vaccine Program, said standard diarrhea treatments do not work against the virus, which causes vomiting, fever and rapid dehydration. Only vaccines can work against the disease, he said.

Japanese encephalitis, a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes, has been a "a silent killer" in Asia and is now the leading cause of disability in the region after polio, said Dr. Julie Jacobson, director of the encephalitis program of PATH, a U.S.-based organization working for global health.

Wecker said a number of financiers, including the Norwegian and British governments and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, recently committed \$3 billion to distribute vaccines for free to children in poor countries.

They also plan to increase awareness about the diseases and encourage manufacturers to increase supplies in developing countries.

The health experts are in Manila to update regional World Health Organization officials on their projects.

Basque rejection sparks urgent meeting

The Associated Press

BILBAO, Spain — The Basque government called an emergency meeting Wednesday, a day after the Spanish Parliament rejected a proposal to grant the region autonomy bordering on independence, with the prospect of early elections seen as high on the agenda.

Officials declined to disclose what would be discussed in the afternoon session. But for days politicians have suggested the Basque government, aware that the proposal would be defeated in Madrid, might hit back by calling early elections in the region.

Such a step could be aimed at harnessing Basque nationalist anger over the plan's rejection, focusing the election campaign on the call for more autonomy in the hope of strengthening the position of nationalists who had drafted the proposal.

The speaker of the Basque Parliament, Juan Maria Atutxa, said the decision would be made some time this month, but suggested it



Spain's Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, bottom right, listens as the Basque regional president, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, speaks in the Spanish Parliament in Madrid on Tuesday. The Basque government called an emergency meeting Wednesday, after their autonomy proposal was rejected.

was not imminent.

However, Jose Blanco, a senior member of Spain's ruling Socialist Party, said the Basque government would probably announce early elections on Wednesday.

Blanco played down the impact

of such a move. He noted that elections had to be called by May 15, and voting can be held only 50 days after elections are announced, giving the Basque government a margin of only a few weeks.

Scientist says global warming to hit Africa

The Associated Press

LONDON — Rising global temperatures will hit Africa's poor the hardest, reducing their ability to deal with drought, feed themselves and earn a living, a scientist told an international conference on climate change Wednesday.

In a paper presented to a gathering of environmental scientists in Exeter, southwest England, Anthony Nyong, a scientist from the University of Jos, Nigeria, said that in Africa global warming would increase the incidence of floods and drought, contributing to increased levels of disease transmission.

"Industrialized countries need to rapidly speed up their effort to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions to avoid dangerous climate change that will have a disproportionate impact on Africa's people," Nyong said.

Catrina Cardoso, a climate change expert from the World Wide Fund for Nature, said warming of up to two degrees Celsius would have an impact on Africa's fragile ecosystem.

"If global warming is not tackled, the viability of millions of people's livelihoods in Africa will be undermined," Cardoso said.

"Without significant new resources, millions of others won't be able to adapt to changes that are already happening."

Climate change would also reduce African people's ability to tackle illness, by wiping out plant species used for traditional medicines, Cardoso said.

By the 2080s, climate change is expected to place an additional 80 million to 120 million people at risk of hunger, with 70 percent to 80 percent of them living in Africa. The hardest hit will be poor people living in areas with low agricultural productivity who depend on genetic species and ecosystem diversity to feed themselves and support their livelihoods.

The environmental conference, which has drawn leading climate scientists from Europe, Asia, Africa and America, is an initiative of the British government, which has made tackling global warming a priority for its chairmanship of the G-8 this year.

The government hopes the conference, which ends Thursday, will lead to a new international consensus on the threat posed by rising temperatures.

3.2 Ghz
DUR 1024MB Ram
AGP 128MB/256MB Turbo
Wireless

\$175
per month

8800 HighTech.com

IN THE STATES

Purple salute

Lawmaker to wear ink on finger during State of the Union address

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. congressman from Louisiana is calling on his fellow lawmakers to show solidarity with Iraqi voters by attending the State of the Union with purple-ink-stained fingers.

Rep. Bobby Jindal, the son of immigrants from India, is planning to dip a finger in purple ink before President Bush's State of the Union speech Wednesday.

Bush is delivering his speech to a joint session of Congress and a nationwide television audience three days after Iraq's first free national elections in decades.

Iraqis who participated in Sunday's elections had a finger stained with purple ink to prove they had voted.

In a letter to be circulated Wednesday among fellow lawmakers, Jindal, a Louisiana Republican, said he would have ink available for anyone attending the speech who wanted to make a gesture of support for Iraqis and "people throughout the world who seek freedom."

Bush was to deliver his speech Wednesday on Capitol Hill, already the scene of a testy, partisan debate over his plan to offer private retirement accounts as part of the government pension plan, known as Social Security.

His ideas for changing the 70-year-old Social Security program scored just two sentences in last year's State of the Union speech.

This year, it's the signature topic of his 40-minute speech before Congress and a nationally televised audience.

Bush will devote the first half of his 40 minute speech to domestic matters and the second half to international issues. As for the latter, Bush will say that the trio of elections in Iraq, Afghanistan and in Palestinian territories offer evidence that democracy is expanding and he'll reaffirm his commitment to using diplomacy to deter the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran.



An Iraqi man shows off his ink-stained finger after casting his ballot at a polling station in Jisr Dalia, Iraq, Sunday, Louisiana Rep. Bobby Jindal plans to show his solidarity with Iraqis by staining his finger purple for the State of the Union.

On Iraq, Bush will encourage the international community to support the Iraqis following their historic election last weekend, urge the international community to help train Iraqi security forces and make the struggling nation a model for democratic reform in the Middle East.

Although he will propose that families of U.S. troops killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and war zones receive an extra \$250,000 in government payments, Bush is not expected to outline any exit strategy for U.S. troops as Democrats in Congress are demanding.

Coast Guard seeks to keep ports clear of terrorist divers

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Coast Guard is seeking to protect the nation's ports from terrorist attacks by scuba divers with a sonar system so powerful it can distinguish swimmers from dolphins.

The security device, to be unveiled Wednesday, scans port waters and alerts authorities on land to any divers. A response boat then drops a second sonar below the surface for confirmation and sends back high-resolution images.

"Instead of alerting us to every sea lion, manatee or fish, this system will help us identify objects as a diver who just got lost or someone who intends on doing us harm," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Alan Tubbs said Tuesday. "To date the Coast Guard's law enforcement has been mostly above water. This is just another capability."

Tubbs declined to discuss in detail how the system actually differentiates humans from animals, how far away it can detect divers or how many were being used. Cost estimates for the system, developed by Coast Guard researchers over the last 2½ years with outside technology, were also unavailable, he said.

The device would only be deployed periodically and could prove especially useful to inspect waters during major public events like welcome ceremonies

for military ships returning to port.

Coast Guard crews have been operating the system along the West Coast over the past year, as well as training with it along the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast.

So far, the device has been nearly flawless during testing, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Smith.

"Our unit divers were out trying to trick the system, but we haven't been able to yet," Smith said.

Concerns about terrorist strikes by scuba divers were raised three years ago after the FBI announced it was investigating whether al-Qaida operatives took scuba training to help blow up ships at anchor, power plants, bridges, depots or other waterfront targets.

The Coast Guard has no information about any current underwater threats, Tubbs said.

Randolph Hall, co-director for the Center for Homeland Security at the University of Southern California, noted that sonars have long been used aboard submarines but he was unaware of any with sufficient resolution to tell divers and other objects apart.

He added that scuba divers could target ships with higher accuracy than a small explosive-laden boat like the one used in the USS Cole blast that killed 17 sailors in 2000.

Gonzales support

WASHINGTON — Confirming Alberto Gonzales as the new attorney general "will resonate throughout the Hispanic community" despite Democratic complaints that he is connected to the Bush administration's policies on foreign detainees, Republicans said Wednesday.

GOP senators continued to praise Gonzales through Senate speeches the day before his confirmation vote in that chamber to become the first Hispanic attorney general. Democrats have already said they won't filibuster the White House counsel and former Texas Supreme Court judge, although as many as 30 could vote against his confirmation Thursday.

Clinton opposition

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Remote as the possibility may be, former Republican Senator Jesse Helms wants to make sure former President Clinton does not lead the United Nations after Secretary-General Kofi Annan retires next year.

In a fund-raising letter, Helms invokes the specter of Clinton one day leading the United Nations. The letter contains a petition asking President Bush to "rebuke all efforts by Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and any other liberal in Congress to push the Bill Clinton to become Secretary-General of the United Nations."

From The Associated Press

Punxsutawney Phil disappoints everyone again

BY DAN NEPHIN

The Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Each February, Americans weary of the cold and wintry weather look to an unlikely forecaster: a chubbiness by groundhog known as Punxsutawney Phil. The news Wednesday wasn't good. Phil saw his shadow, which in the American tradition suggests another six weeks of winter.

He delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump by a top-hatted handler, eliciting boos from the thousands who had gathered in the cold.

"He's only the messenger!" one of the members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club — the volunteer group in charge of Phil and the town's Groundhog Day festivities — reminded the crowd braving the frigid weather.

The tradition that began in 1886 stems from the Christian holiday of Candlemas, and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

Whether Phil sees his shadow is beside the point, however.

Organizers of the event and the festivals, concerts and craft fair in this town 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh say Groundhog Day is all about the fun — and a chance to shake winter's chilly cloak.

An energetic crowd of about 2,000 people were already assembled by 3:30 a.m. Wednesday. Most were bundled up against the cold, but at least one young woman braved the weather in a bikini top.

Nikki Wehrmann and her 9-year-old daughter, Arianne, had on layer upon layer as they



Bill Deeley holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather-predicting groundhog, after he saw his shadow in Punxsutawney, Pa., which, according to tradition, means there will be six more weeks of winter.

huddled over coffee and hot chocolate.

Arianne was taking the day off from school to see Phil, her mother said. They live in nearby DuBois.

"We considered this an educational purpose," said Wehrmann, who told her daughter about the history of Groundhog Day and plans to have Arianne do a project on the event.



Space Shuttle Columbia widows Evelyn Husband, left, and Sandy Anderson get their first look at a memorial dedicated to the Columbia astronauts on Tuesday in downtown Houston.

Rough seas torment touring students

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Lauren Osgood watched as waves and flecks of sea spray licked at the glass on the door. But there was nothing to hold onto.

Computers, library books and furniture crashed to the floor and were flung against the walls as the ship leaned like a massive metronome from port to starboard and back again.

"We were right by the exit doors on either side, and so you could like see the waves on the doors, which freaked me out," said Osgood, 21, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who was enrolled in the Semester at Sea program that used the research ship Explorer as a floating classroom.

"That's kind of when I began to panic because you could see the water and realize that you were tipping that much," she said.

The 591-foot Explorer limped into Honolulu Harbor on Monday for repairs and inspections after passengers endured more than a week's worth of rough seas.

None of the students suffered injuries beyond bruises, but one crew member suffered a broken leg and another a broken arm.

The ship's seawatching motion made sleeping difficult, so many of the nearly 700 students were awake when a wave shattered the glass on the ship's bridge and three of the four engines shut down early last Wednesday.

The wave also short-circuited the electronic instruments used to steer the ship, forcing the crew to use a compass and navigational charts instead.

The incident occurred about 650 miles south of Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands and about 1,300 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Students said rough seas had plagued the ship since they left Vancouver on Jan. 18 with 990 people aboard, including the students enrolling in a University of Pittsburgh program designed to give them a global perspective. Tuition for the program is about \$20,000.

The crew distributed plastic bags for nauseous passengers, and students sat on the floor during classes because the furniture was not secured to the floor and would topple with the ship's movements.

"We were so used to it after a while. You'd just be talking to someone and when you felt the boat move, you'd just instantly grab for something," said Becca Leonard, 21, a junior at the University of Southern California.

Osgood and Leonard suffered bruises but said the experience "bonded the group."

"It was totally not fun when it was happening, but afterward, everyone was so much tighter," Leonard said.

Jet skids into building

TETERBORO, N.J. — A corporate jet hurtled off the end of an airport runway Wednesday while attempting to take off, speeding across a highway and striking two cars before slamming into a warehouse. About 15 people were injured, one critically, but nobody was killed, officials said.

The injured included at least two people in the cars, officials said. Eleven people were on the plane; the most seriously injured was the pilot, who suffered a broken leg, said officials, who did not disclose the identities of the passengers or crew.

"I think everybody at this point is extremely lucky and fortunate," said acting Gov. Richard J. Codey.

One witness said a pilot crawled out of the wreckage and told him the crew lost control of the plane.

It was headed for Midway Airport in Chicago when the accident happened.

From The Associated Press

Study finds cell use by young drivers slows reaction times, increases risk

BY LEON D'SOUZA

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Talking on a cell phone makes you drive like a retiree — even if you're only a teen, a study shows.

A report from the University of Utah says when motorists between 18 and 25 talk on cell phones, they drive like elderly people — moving and reacting more slowly and increasing their risk of accidents.

"If you put a 20-year-old driver behind the wheel with a cell phone, his reaction times are the same as a 70-year-old driver," said David Strayer, a University of Utah psychology professor and principal author of the study. "It's like instant aging."

And it doesn't matter whether the phone is hand-held or hands-free, he said. Any activity requiring a driver to "actively be part of a conversation" likely will impair driving abilities, Strayer said.

In fact, motorists who talk on cell phones are more impaired than drunk drivers with blood-alcohol levels exceeding 0.08, Strayer and colleague Frank Drews, an assistant professor of psychology, found during research conducted in 2003.

In Virginia, the Senate on Friday passed a bill that would ban motorists younger than 18 from talking on cellular phones while driving. Sen. Jay O'Brien said the legislation would make Virginia the first state to ban minors from using mobile phones while driving a car.

The cell phone and teens study appears in this winter's issue of Human Factors, the quarterly journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

Strayer said they found that when 18-to-25-year-olds were placed in a driving simulator and talked on a cellular phone, they reacted to brake lights from a car in front of them as slowly as 65-to-74-year-olds who were not using a cell phone.

The study found that drivers who talked on cell phones were 18 percent slower in braking and took 17 percent longer to regain the speed they lost when they braked.

The new research questions the effectiveness of cell phone usage laws in states such as New York and New Jersey, which only ban the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

It's not so much the handling of a phone, Strayer said, but the act of having a conversation is a mental process that can drain concentration.

Houston memorial honors Columbia's 7 astronauts

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Evelyn Husband couldn't get her son, Matthew, to come to breakfast. She found him staring at a clock instead.

"He was watching the clock and remembering when exactly it happened," the widow said Tuesday, referring to space shuttle Columbia's disintegration over Texas shortly before 8 a.m. two years ago. "This is the first time he's done that, but he's 9 now. He was 7 when it happened."

Matthew's father, commander Rick Husband, and six other astronauts died as Columbia returned from a 16-day science and research mission on Feb. 1, 2003.

On the second anniversary of the tragedy, Houston Mayor Bill White and other city officials dedicated a granite memorial in a downtown park to honor the astronauts. A similar tribute to the seven astronauts who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster is nearby.

Husband, wearing a necklace with a shuttle emblem she got from her husband, said she still deals with the tragedy every day.

"There is such a desire in my heart to return to normal

and yet this is something we are never going to be able to forget," she said.

Johnson Space Center Director Gen. Jefferson D. Howell Jr. said it was fitting that a Columbia memorial was placed in Houston. "As most of us in Houston know, the first word spoken from the surface of the moon was Houston," he said.

He said Columbia's final mission was a wonderful success because "what they accomplished was incredible. They just didn't make it all the way home."

Investigators determined the shuttle was brought down by a hole in the leading edge of its left wing caused when a piece of insulating foam broke off and struck the wing during liftoff. The searing gases of re-entry entered the gap and melted the wing from the inside out, leading to the breakup of the orbiter.

The loss is still painful, said Jon Clark, a NASA neurologist who was married to astronaut Laurel Clark, a member of Columbia's final crew. "It's not the searing heart ripped out of your chest, it's more of just a chronic ache," he said.

Elsewhere in Texas, residents laid out roses during a remembrance ceremony in Hemphill, a small town where shuttle debris was found after Columbia broke apart.

Report criticizes MTV for 'sleaze'

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A conservative advocacy group that focuses on media decency issues slammed the cable network MTV on Tuesday for "incestuous television" in its youth-oriented programming.

MTV viewers, many of whom are teenagers, are exposed to higher levels of sex, violence and other adult behaviors than what is found during the final prime-time hour of broadcast television, the Parents Television Council said in a report released Tuesday.

Council researchers watched more than 170 hours of the channel's spring-break coverage during one week last March and logged every instance of sexual content, violence, and drug and alcohol use.

Their report, "MTV Smut Peddlers: Targeting Kids With Sex, Drugs, and Alcohol," found an average of nine sexual scenes per hour throughout the day. By comparison, the group's study of sex on broadcast television found 5.8 sexual instances during the last hour of prime time, when broadcast standards are loosened slightly because children are presumed to have gone to bed.

MTV spokeswoman Jeanne Kedes called the report "unfair" and "inaccurate," but said that the network had received Peabody and Emmy awards for programming such as "Fight for Your Right" and focused on issues such as tolerance and discrimination, and "Choose or Lose," which encouraged young people to vote.

OPINION

Iraq bravely voted to embrace nationalism

WASHINGTON
"I sn't it pretty to think so?" Those concluding words of Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises," a novel of postwar disillusion, became a generation's verbal shrug, expressing weary melancholy after a war waged to make the world safe for democracy.

George Will

Eighty years on, there of course remain reasons for wondering whether Iraq's stride toward popular sovereignty will lead to a durable and admirable democracy. But it is a humbling privilege for the rest of us to share the planet with the defiant Iraqis who campaigned and voted, and the coalition's superb warriors who made voting possible.

Democracy is more than a mechanism for picking leaders; it is institutions of pluralism, and attitudes of majority forbearance and minority acceptance. But democracy is a mechanism for selecting leaders. Can the leaders selected on Sunday — who must choose by a two-thirds vote a three-person Presidential Council, then write a constitution under which there will be another election for new leaders, all by December — lead toward a secular state respectful of civil liberties? If the government generated on Sunday cannot produce ample security — and electricity — it will be no event to forestall majority tyranny, the new assembly will reflect proportional representation to a degree that would test the coalition-building skills of a mature parliamentary system. Any party that won a two-fifths of the vote gets one of the 275 assembly seats. Two-thirds of the voters in any three of Iraq's 18 provinces can veto the con-

stitution, which means the Kurds or Sunnis could.

In which case, Iraq will be back to square one. But where exactly is that? As a communal moment, Sunday's elections should fuel Iraqi nationalism. Largely because of a misunderstanding of Hitler — a racist, not a nationalist, he supplanted national symbols with party symbols — nationalism has acquired a bad reputation. But nationalism — a civic identity organized around shared history and commemorated on sacred days, such as Jan. 30 — can trump sectarian differences, and fuse where they fracture.

Days before the voting, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the terrorist, and Edward Kennedy, the senator, contributed to Americans' understanding of the struggle in Iraq — Zarqawi by his clarity, Kennedy by his confusion. In a speech intellectually disheveled and morally obtuse, Kennedy said, "Our military and the insurgents are fighting for the same thing — the hearts and minds of the people." His weird idea is that while the coalition struggles to persuade Iraqis to try democracy, the insurgents are trying to persuade Iraqis to embrace a rival idea of social organization. Actually, the two significant factions of insurgents, who have the totalitarianist characteristic penchant for candor, do not even pretend to value consent achieved by persuasion.

One group, the former Baathist regime elders, aims only to return to their totalitarianist vocation, as George Orwell understood it: "a boot stamping on a human face — forever." These elements know that they intimidate by the vilest violence can serve them. Imagining them, as Kennedy does, as campaigners for a rival doctrine is, well, weird. The other insurgents, those with radical Islamic agenda, reject modernity not just by branch, and so reject the idea that governments derive legitimacy from the consent of the governed. Twentieth-century totalitarian-

...Iraq is another Vietnam... we should... cut and run!... Insurgents are battling American occupation!... Ah... OK...



...fascists and communists — felt constrained to bow toward popular sovereignty with plebiscitary forms. Not Zarqawi, who says democracy is an "evil principle" and "heresy itself" because the will of the governed supplants God's will. For radical Islam, the public's mind deserves not respect but a religious scrubbing.

Forty years ago Kennedy suffered a continuing brain cramp. He and an aging but vocal portion of his party have no prism to see through and no vocabulary to speak with other than Vietnam. Hence they see the Iraqi insurgents as another iteration of the Viet Cong. But the Viet Cong had a marketable model for organizing the modern world. Marxism — "scientific socialism" — is today as vanished as a pricked bubble, but when

Ho Chi Minh was in Paris, it was considered the last word in modernity, and found a mass market. Zarqawi's "program" is a howl of rage against modernity, promising only different boots — clerical ones — on the same faces.

Americans are understandably weary of hearing, "Now comes the really hard part." But those who said that after Baghdad fell 22 months ago were right, and those who say it after Sunday might be. Nevertheless, getting to, and through, Sunday was hard, and those Iraqi, Americans and other coalition forces — who did it might yet pull that country into modernity. Isn't it pretty to think so?

George Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Final respects can celebrate an individual's spirit

I've been hunting only once in my life, so I'm guessing that a new line of canvas-outrigger caskets featuring deer, ducks or turkeys won't be appropriate for me when I buy the farm.

Bill Tammus

Still, I find something appealing — not appalling — about these can caskets built and sold by Arkansas Casket Sales of Heber Springs, Ark. (www.cancasket.com). I like the notion that we can tug on Death's cape and ride away — even a little whimsically — the life of the one who has died.

These 18-gauge steel, gasketed, \$2,995 caskets come in "natural" and "evergreen," and co-owner Ruth Ann Graves (the perfect last name to own a casket company) says they have been "well-received." We've had a few sales. We feel like we're getting there, but it's just been hard getting the word out.

Her husband, Hugh Graves, says can caskets fit into the move toward more-personalized funerals.

"Things are changing from the old morbid way of gruesome funerals," he says. "It's a time to celebrate." And yet he adds this: "We strictly are serious about this. Death is serious. When it happens to your family, it hurts. But we do something for the family that actually helps them."

But, he acknowledges, "It's not for everybody."

And yet everyone — whether people of

faith or people who stay as far away from religion as possible — eventually must face death. And there are honored traditions about how we say farewell and — depending on the religion, if any — about how we understand death.

But even in the most somber cultures, there surely is space at the end of a life to say, "This is part of who this person was."

When my father died 13 years ago, we chose a big-boned, wooden casket that reflected his gentle masculinity. When my mother died nine years ago, our choice was a soft, pinkish metal that spoke of a love of beauty and her feminine qualities.

I hope to avoid putting my survivors

through such a choice by being cremated and having my ashes buried on the grounds of my church. But... I agree with Hugh and Ruth Ann Graves that there is a lot of room for expressions of individuality in funerals.

One reason is that religious tradition in almost all cultures for centuries has viewed life as an enormous and precious gift.

It's one reason, for example, that all major religions approve of organ and tissue donation so that one who is dying may help extend life for others. There certainly are different approaches... but the overwhelming emphasis is on the value of preserving life and passing it on.

In some ways, that's because religions rec-

ognize that the mysterious reality of life itself is not something individuals own, exactly... Doing something a little odd — such as choosing a casket decorated with hunting camouflage — is... another way of affirming life as a joyous gift.

And speaking of affirmations, I've been thinking a little more about a casket to honor newspaper columnists. Headlines are fine, as well as some reprinted columns, but instead of a phone number and e-mail address at the end of the columns, I'd use a line that says: "You can comment on this column when you get to wherever the columnist has gone."

Bill Tammus is a columnist for The Kansas City (Mo.) Star.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard's sage
 Super Bowl
 Prediction # 4



Future
 Super
 Bowls
 will
 feature
 7-foot
 tall,
 400-lb.
 Linemen...

...but none who'll
 ever stand
 taller than
 Reggie White...



©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Clinic in trouble

ID BONNERS FERRY — In 18 months, a mobile health clinic has provided basic medical care and dentistry to more than 2,500 low-income northern Idaho residents. Now the program's federal grant is set to expire and its organizers are asking three community clinics to take over the project.

Grave holdup

VA ALEXANDRIA — An elderly man was robbed while visiting his wife's grave, Fairfax County police said.

The 83-year-old victim was robbed after removing a wreath from his wife's grave at the National Memorial Gardens on Lee Highway.

The robber shoved something into the victim's back and demanded he be taken somewhere to get money. The victim tried to hit his attacker but was overpowered and pushed to the ground. The victim was forced into the car, where he gave the robber some cash. The robber got out and ran away.

Man giving away arcade

NH CLAREMONT — A local businessman is so set on seeing the city center revitalized, he wants to give away his 6-week-old video arcade to free himself up to start another business.

Nick Koloski says he wants to hand over the keys to Jester's Court, and he doesn't want a penny for it.

Koloski says his plan is to sign over the lease to someone interested in running the shop. The space is rented, as are most of the video games, so the new owner would assume the expenses.

Koloski says his goal is to have a hand in filling the remaining empty storefronts in downtown Claremont, and he doesn't want to be committed to one business while trying to do that.

Elephant stomps trainer

IN FORT WAYNE — An elephant being loaded onto a truck trampled a circus animal trainer to death at Memorial Coliseum, police said.

Three handlers were loading the elephants when the elephant crushed the man, who was found later by a Coliseum worker. He died from blunt force trauma to the chest at a hospital a few hours after being found, police said.

Police said they did not know how many times the elephant stepped on the man, whose name was not released.

Pooh royalties suit

CA LOS ANGELES — The family that owns the U.S. marketing rights to Winnie the Pooh will appeal a judge's dismissal of its long-running royalties dispute with The Walt Disney Co., an attorney for the family said.

"We do think that the judge's ruling was incorrect," attorney Steven Sherr said.

In March, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy threw out the case brought by Stephen

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Slesinger Inc., ruling the company illegally obtained confidential documents from Disney offices and trash.

The judge dismissed the 13-year-old lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the company cannot sue again on the claim that Disney owed millions of dollars in royalties for Pooh movies released on DVD.

Paramedics suspended

NC RALEIGH — Two paramedics who mistakenly declared an accident victim dead had their credentials suspended.

Paramedics Wade Kearney II and Paul Kilmer had their credentials suspended for rules violations, according to the state Office of Emergency Medical Service. They are among four paramedics who have been suspended with pay.

Larry Green, 29, was struck by a car and pronounced dead at the scene. Two hours later, a medical examiner at the morgue saw Green take a shallow breath and realized he was alive. Green remains in critical condition.

Arrest in actress's death

NY NEW YORK — A 19-year-old Staten Island man was arrested and charged in the murder of an aspiring actress on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

During an arraignment, Rudy Fleming was charged with murder, robbery, attempted robbery and weapons possession. He was remanded with a court date set for Tuesday, prosecutors said.

Calls to Fleming's attorney, Dennis Murphy, were not immediately returned.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Hettelman said Fleming could face life in prison and possibly the death penalty, if convicted.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced the arrest following four days of news coverage about Minnesota transplant Nicole duPresne and her violent death in a once-gritty neighborhood now known for hip nightspots. He credited callers to a telephone hot line with providing several valuable leads.

Education act aids pupils

HI HONOLULU — The No Child Left Behind Act let almost 700 students transfer to better schools last fall, education officials said. That's up from about 150 the previous year. The act allows low-income students to leave schools posting low standardized test scores for at least two years in a row.

Family offers reward

ND BISMARK — Family members of a slain couple are offering a \$5,000 reward in the case, saying they have lost confidence in state authorities investigating the deaths.

The slayings of Norman and Yvonne Olson have puzzled officials from the start. Norman, 73, and Yvonne, 69, disappeared on Aug. 14, leaving behind cash and credit cards, and food on the kitchen counter.

No trace of them was found until early November, when an early police officer discovered the bodies while hunting northwest of Hettinger. Authorities have said they are unsure if anyone other than the couple was involved in the slayings.

The Olson family has issued a statement saying, "Investigators prejudged the case very early on as a murder-suicide, despite unanswered questions and details to the contrary, and that this bias has hindered a thorough investigation of all possibilities."

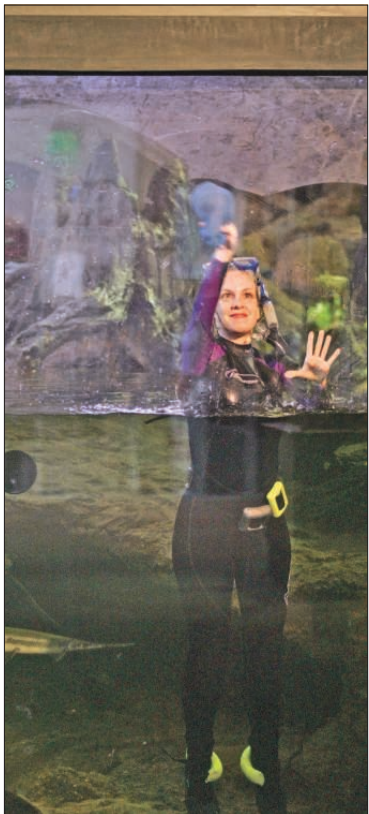
Spelling bee back on

RI LINCOLN — School officials have reversed their decision keeping students out of a statewide spelling bee, which they had decided to skip due in part to concerns about the children's feelings.

Lincoln's four elementary schools and its middle school will hold school spelling bees, and the winners will face off in a district-wide bee, the school department said.

"It's something that a lot of people have an interest in doing, so we're going to do it," said Schools Superintendent John Tindall-Gibson.

After last year's spelling bee, school principals indicated they didn't want to take part again. They told the assistant superintendent they felt the bee hurt children's self-esteem, and conflicted with the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind education law because it didn't allow all students to succeed.



She does windows

Abby Garner, aquarist for the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, cleans the windows of a large fish tank.



He'll grow into it

Jared Gilson, 3, tries to throw a football while wearing a full-sized uniform at the NFL Experience in Jacksonville, Fla.



Strawberry Hill topped High atop the Cruise-Scroggs Mansion on Strawberry Hill, roofers Larry Brown, left, and Peadar O'Neill pause as they finished a section of the roof in Kansas City, Kan. The Queen Anne-style mansion, built in 1887, houses the Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center.



A tough start A newborn Angolan Colobus monkey at the Abilene Zoo rests against a stuffed animal inside an incubator on loan from Abilene Regional Medical Center in Texas. The female monkey was delivered through a Caesarean section and needed an incubator because her mother was rejecting her.



Need dinner company?

Looking for a meal of bait or leftover fish, a sea lion climbs on board a boat at the Petro Marine dock in Kodiak, Alaska.



Happy birthday

Rudy, a gorilla at the Erie Zoo in Erie, Pa., turned 49 this week. Rudy is believed to be the oldest captive lowland gorilla in the world, according to the International Species Information System.



Night lights

Car headlights from commuters entering Decatur, Ala., reflect off the waters of the Tennessee River. The commuters are driving south on the Highway 31 causeway.

South Shore shooting

MA RANDOLPH — A man was shot and killed outside a South Shore dance club in what authorities called the town's first street killing in more than a decade.

Joseph Lopes, 23, was shot after he left the Copu Grande when the club closed, Norfolk District Attorney William Keating said.

Lion-cub grabbers fined

CO ESTES PARK — A 65-pound mountain lion cub — guessed to be about 4 or 5 months old — was picked up by three friends on the way home from dinner.

When they saw the cub, "It looked up as if to say, 'Help me,'" said one of the men, Jason Lee Laird, 21.

They decided to take the animal to a veterinary clinic. En route, they flagged down a Boulder County sheriff's deputy, and a wildlife officer was called.

The sheriff's deputy told the men he smelled marijuana. Laird suggested it was because the cat had relieved itself in the back of his Jeep, but he and one of his friends were ultimately ticketed after Deputy Jeff Canton told them, "Mountain lions don't smoke marijuana," according to the incident report.

The cub had to be euthanized later, wildlife officials said.

Competition aids drivers

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire drivers are benefiting from increased competition among auto insurers, officials say. Seven of 11 auto insurance companies that have filed rate change requests with the state so far this year have asked for decreases.

That compares with five of 25 in 2004 and none the year before, according to the state Department of Insurance.

Concerns over e-mail use

AR LITTLE ROCK — Some House members say their colleagues should refrain from reading e-mail during legislative debate, but the focus on the issue.

House Speaker Bill Stovall says he wants legislators to be able to use laptops in chambers to check on pertinent bills. But he's concerned about legislators being distracted from floor debate by e-mails from constituents, journalists and others.

Law comes with price

KY LOUISVILLE — A Jefferson Circuit judge is giving Louisville's adult businesses until March 9 to comply with a strict new adult entertainment law, providing they post a \$25,000 bond.

That will give the case a chance to reach the state Court of Appeals. The ordinance prohibits nudity, requires adult entertainment businesses to close by 1 a.m. and stipulates that dancers to remain at least 6 feet from patrons.

Where the buffalo roam

SD RAPID CITY — A buffalo that escaped from an auction ended up in a dressing room at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, where it spent a couple of hours staring into a mirror.

The buffalo jumped over a steel panel Sunday morning during the Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, went down an alley and got into the dressing room reserved for visiting sports teams, said Brian Maliske, the civic center's general manager.

"The door happened to be unlocked and he pushed the door open and went in," Maliske said.

Once the sale ended, a rodeo crewmember coaxed the buffalo out of the dressing room and back into captivity.

Too close for comfort

OH TOLEDO — About one in four registered sex offenders in Lucas County lives closer to a school than allowed by state law, The Blade newspaper reported.

Sex offenders aren't supposed to live within 1,000 feet of a school, but police officers say it can be difficult to get a court order to force offenders to move.

No more weather man

ND WILLISTON — The National Weather Service says a technology upgrade at its station here will allow warnings and other reports to go on the air quicker. A computer-generated voice system will read the Williston station's radio broadcasts.

Meteorologist Rick Krolak said the Williston station was the last in the country to abandon broadcasts read by people.

Mom jailed over fines

TX ANGLETON — Susan Manis was surprised when two Brazoria County deputies showed up at her home with a warrant for her arrest.

Manis said she was handcuffed, put in a patrol car and taken to jail. "I just cried at first," she said.

Her husband, Steve, contacted a judge, who called the jail and ordered her release.

The warrant stemmed from Manis missing a monthly payment on fees and fines levied against one of her sons when he was a juvenile.

"I accepted responsibility for that," Manis, who agreed in court to make a payment.

An unwelcome surprise

NY CENTER MORICHES — Christopher MORICHES' father Paul, 77, died at Central Suffolk Hospital last week. The hospital was supposed to have turned his belongings over to Sinnickson's Moriches Funeral Home, which in turn gave the bag to Runyan's wife, Andrea.

But Runyan later smelled a foul stench coming from the bag and when he opened it, he discovered a leg with a toe tag attached. At first he thought it was his father's because he had an arm amputated in an attempt to save him.

But a blue toe tag attached to the leg indicated it belonged to a completely different person.

"The stench that came out almost knocked me over," Runyan told the Daily News. "I turned totally white."

Suffolk County police Sgt. George Kelly said Tuesday that investigators determined that the leg belonged to a patient who died Jan. 13. "We believe it was just a case of human error," Kelly said.

Photos and stories from wire reports

FACES

New Age guru takes on violence

Author Deepak Chopra says individuals must be responsible for creating peace

BY JUSTIN GLANVILLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's an incongruous image: Deepak Chopra, leader of a spiritual movement that has introduced millions of Americans to the benefits of positive thinking, waving a cell phone in the air as he lists its capacities for destruction.

"I could be sitting anywhere in the world and move a few electrons from here, and I'll interfere with the power grid for the entire state of New York," he says. "Or I'll interfere with air traffic signals so no plane can land at JFK. What is military power going to do then?"

Chopra hasn't snapped. He's explaining what he sees as the ineffectiveness of conventional warfare in an age when terrorists can wreak havoc without a single armed troop.

What's needed instead, he says, is a return to the ancient principle that peace begins within. Just as individuals can now perpetrate mass violence, individuals must also take responsibility for creating world peace.

That's the message of Chopra's new book, "Peace Is the Way," which offers seven daily practices that he says will create inner peace and, by extension, a more placid world.

Is it naive to think enough people will adopt his ideas to make a difference? "We have to try. Do you ask anybody on the street, 'Do you want peace of mind in your life and in your relationships?' nobody is going to say no," he says. "Magnify that a few million times — that's what we need."

It's that steadfast optimism that has become Chopra's trademark. He has made a career of purveying hope, earning an estimated

\$10 million to \$15 million by selling 20 million copies of his 40 books and operating a successful wellness center in California.

His legions of fans include the Dalai Lama, former Nobel laureates Desmond Tutu, Betty Williams and Oscar Arias, and former U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose endorsements fill the first few pages of "Peace Is the Way."

He has also become the unofficial television spokesman of the New Age movement, appearing

**"We reach for war
the way a
chain-smoker
reaches for a
cigarette,
muttering all the
while that we
have to quit."**

Deepak Chopra

on scores of TV talk shows each year, from "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to "The O'Reilly Factor."

It's easy to see why. Wearing a pair of rainbow-framed reading glasses and speaking in a voice that rarely deviates from a singsong cheerfulness, Chopra comes across as casual and approachable. During a recent interview in a lounge at his midtown Manhattan apartment building, he is dressed in a sweater and slacks and weighs a few pounds more than the average health expert.

True to his image as an unflappable guru, Chopra — who's about 58 but doesn't remember exactly when he was born — says

notoriety doesn't faze him. He says he leads a normal family life with his wife, Rita, and has two grown children and a granddaughter.

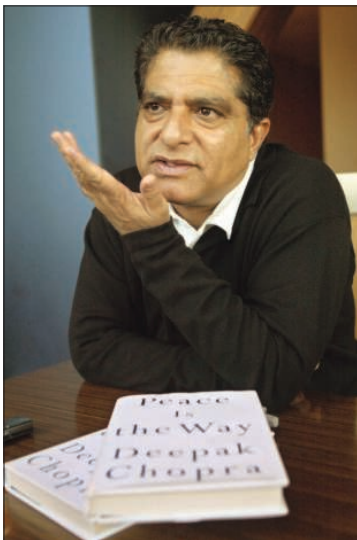
His previous writings have instructed readers how to adopt a positive attitude to combat chronic illnesses such as addiction or insomnia, and in "Peace Is the Way" Chopra treats violence in similar terms.

"Like any habit, war has worn a groove in our minds," he writes in the first chapter. "We reach for war the way a chain-smoker reaches for a cigarette, muttering all the while that we have to quit."

It may surprise some, but Chopra is writing from personal experience. In the mid-1980s, when he was chief of staff of New England Memorial Hospital near Boston, Chopra was on the brink of an emotional breakdown. He drank, smoked and was a self-described caffeine addict. In desperation, he turned to yoga and meditation to relieve his stress, and began to see their positive contrast to the "pull-pushing" he says he did as a conventional doctor.

He also traveled to India, where he was born and earned his medical degree. There, he met Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a meditation teacher and spiritual leader who famously served as guru to The Beatles in the 1960s. The Maharishi introduced Chopra to Ayurvedic medicine, which uses herbal mixtures to stave off illness.

After returning to the United States, Chopra founded an Ayurvedic health center in 1985, the same year he quit his hospital job. He started writing books, with the first, "Creating Health," appearing in 1987. His breakthrough success came with "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind," published in



Best-selling author Deepak Chopra talks about his new book, "Peace Is the Way," during a December interview in New York. The book takes on the subject of violence, a first for the New Age guru. Chopra has sold more than 20 million copies of his 40 books.

1993, in which he argued that people could slow the aging process through meditation, better diet and self-affirmation exercises.

In 1996, he opened The Chopra Center in La Jolla, Calif. A day spa at the center offers massages, aromatherapy and other 35-minute treatments ranging in price from \$95 to \$185; seminars and retreats with titles like "Renewal Weekend" and "Journey Into Healing" are also available.

As Chopra's fame and financial success grew, he began to sever his ties to the Western medical establishment, letting his medical licenses expire in Massachusetts and California.

Recently, he has even made

some amends with the medical community. He teaches a course at Harvard Medical School once a year, and he says courses at The Chopra Center are now certified by the American Medical Association. He is again a licensed medical doctor in California, though he rarely sees individual patients.

"I was criticized, called a fraud — it was a very cantankerous and antagonistic relationship [with the medical mainstream]. So I basically left. Now I get constantly invited to give talks at medical schools, and professional societies are giving me honorary memberships," he says with a laugh, and shrugs.

"I guess we've come full circle."

NBA star against drugs

Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony will assist a campaign against drugs and violence following criticism of his appearance in a DVD that warned witnesses about working with the police.

Maryland state and federal officials approached Anthony, hoping his celebrity would be a draw.

The DVD, titled "Stop Snitching," was circulated in Baltimore since November. Anthony, a Baltimore native, appears briefly, standing next to a man who warns that anyone who tips off police about drug deals will "get a hole



Anthony

in his head." Anthony doesn't respond to any of the comments on tape but appears in the DVD's credits.

Anthony later said he doesn't approve of the DVD's contents and didn't know it was being made.

"I'm completely against violence and drugs — that's not me," Anthony told The Washington Post. "I just want to get the word out. I've lost friends to violence. I would never support anybody harming anyone."

Keanu Reeves get a star

Keanu Reeves, who traveled through time in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" and took on humanity's machine conquerors in "The Matrix" films, has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Reeves, 40, was honored with the star Monday for a career that includes movies

such as the action thrillers "Speed" and "Point Break," the romances "Something's Gotta Give" and "A Walk in the Clouds," and the dramas "Little Buddha" and "My Own Private Idaho."

His star was placed along Hollywood Boulevard near where some action scenes in "Speed" were shot.

The honor came just weeks before the release of his next movie, "Constantine," adapted from the DC Comics series. Reeves stars as the title character, a man with visions of angels and devils on Earth who battles to dispatch demons back to the



Reeves

underworld.

'Medium' coming back

NBC will bring back the midseason drama "Medium" for a second season, the network announced.

The show, which premiered just weeks earlier, has received good ratings. It stars Patricia Arquette as a woman who solves crimes through her dreams and visions. Besides the full-season pickup, "Medium" will add three more episodes to the already planned 13 episodes.



Arquette

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

[illegible]

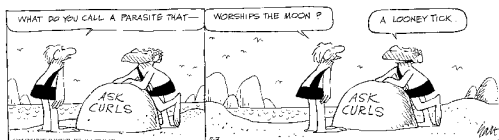
Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



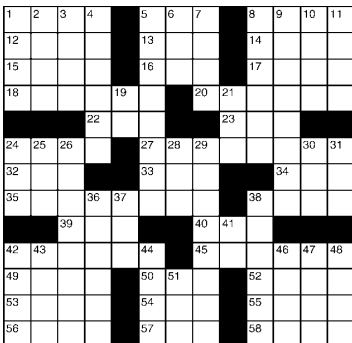
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Out of place

5 Eminem's genre

8 Jog

12 Icicle's place

13 Avail oneself of

14 Exceptional

15 Home, in today's

16 The girl

17 Unoriginal one

18 Getting on in

20 Area

22 Male turkey

23 Cover

24 Web site list,

often

27 Cops

32 — Darya

33 Inlet

34 Still

35 Some pitches

38 Group of quail

39 Magnon

preceder

40 Seesaw quorum

42 Charlatanism

45 Ding site, often

49 — Romeo (car)

50 — Annie

("Oklahoma!"

role)

52 Unaltered

53 Porter's

"Let's—"

54 Court

55 Saharan

56 Alluring

Down

17 Started

18 Busy with

19 Erte's style

20 Count counterpart

21 Champing at

the bit

24 Red-ink entries

25 Where to see a

rock quartet?

26 Blond shade

27 Juror,

theoretically

28 Dire

29 — movement

(sleep

phenomenon)

30 Sandwich treat

31 Gulf's cousin

32 "And I should

care, why?"

33 here

34 Actor Wallace

35 Mis' neighbors

36 Intensity

37 Duct tape,

maybe?

38 Evergreen

39 Whoppers, e.g.

40 Gun the engine

41 Pigs' digs

42 Pact

43 Rocky height

44 Dwarfed tree

45 Constitution's

first word

46 Manias

47 Lotion additive

48 Sailing vessel

49 "Phooey!"

50 Give off

51 Start over

52 The buck stops

here

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-3

CRYPTOQUIP

O C I J Y J Y P S A B J B D I A
O B A F P P B D I O C I A I I V P I Y S
J T K C S . T S Y F I T S C I P

D B B J V T K C S T J K
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHE JUST CANNOT
TAKE A JOKE! I SUGGEST SHE GET CHECKED
FOR AN IRONY DEFICIENCY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals N

Many theories for helping 'Papa'

Dear Abby: Your advice to "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law scoots off in his motorized wheelchair to the local bar a mile away and returns home drunk, missed one point. The bar has a legal responsibility not to allow customers to leave drunk, and instead of serving drunk customers, to cut them off.

"Fed Up" should go to the bar with the police and inform the bartender and management that the next time they "over-serve" "Papa Jake," she'll see it to that the New York state liquor license people get an earful, and if anything happens to Papa Jake, or he causes injury to anyone in his drunken conduct on the way home, the bar will share in that responsibility.

I'll bet a gin and tonic after that the bar will cut Papa Jake off long before he gets drunk.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: Why didn't you suggest counseling for that poor man? Obviously, Papa Jake is wounded and has too much idle time on his hands. After he has been given a thorough physical and mental evaluation, he needs to be introduced to AA, as well as activities that could spark his creative talents.

— Jessica in Tennessee

Dear Jessica: I'm sure that at the time of his stroke and afterward, Papa Jake received physical and neurological evaluations. However, if he's willing to admit he has an alcohol prob-

lem, AA could be helpful. (And so could Al-Anon for "Fed Up" and her husband.) They might also consider contacting the American Stroke Association, which maintains a listing of telephone support groups for stroke survivors, their families, friends and interested professionals. The toll-free number is 888-4STROKE.

Dear Abby: As a follow-up to the letter from "Fed Up in N.Y.," whose father-in-law was using his motorized scooter to travel to a bar, I suggest that she or her husband disconnect the battery to his scooter. I hope this is helpful.

— Philip C. Houston

Dear Philip: It might prove helpful, but only as a last resort.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINES

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

BICAN

THOUPS

www.jumble.com

DUSARI

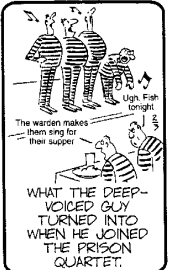
A: A

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PUPIL UNITY TANGLE HERESY
Answer: One too many made him do this — SLEEP "TIGHT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Support mom's choice of boyfriend

Dear Annie: I am in my early 20s and am now living with my mother after having been on my own for a while. Mom has been seeing a man named "Dan" for two years, and I just found out that they are engaged, although I haven't officially been told yet.

Dan and his 13-year-old son moved in with us in August, and it has been a difficult transition. Dan is a clean freak, and he goes crazy over a dish in the sink or a stain on the counter. He also is a racist. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard him use offensive, derogatory ethnic slurs. When I bring it up to my mother, she defends him, saying he was raised in a different time in a different place. Personally, I don't think that's a good excuse.

I cannot ever criticize Dan, because my mother always takes his side, no matter what, and

Annie's Mailbox



says I'm insensitive for giving him grief. Now that they are engaged, I feel close to a nervous breakdown. I loved my father very much, and when he died four years ago, I took it very hard. I try to envision the future, and Dan just doesn't fit in. When I have kids, I don't want them to know him as their grandfather. What should I do?

— Losing It

Dear Losing: No matter how odious a choice your mother has made, it's HER choice, and you must find a way to live with it. Instead of criticizing Dan — or worse, comparing him to your father — try kindness and caring. Tell Mom you understand that she doesn't want to be alone, but you are concerned that Dan may not help her happy.

Meanwhile, start saving your money so you don't have to share living quarters, and if Mom mar-

ries Dan, do your best to be civil to your new stepfather. It will allow you to keep your relationship with your mother.

Dear Annie: The other day at breakfast, I read your column about wives of retired husbands who go bananas with hubby at home. Feeling very superior on this score, I asked across the table to my wife of 51-plus years: "I don't drive you bananas since I retired, do I?"

Without missing a beat she responded: "Oh, no, no. You did that long before retiring." Sigh.

— Martin

Dear Martin: Thanks for making us laugh. We needed that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

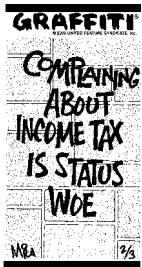
Creators Syndicate



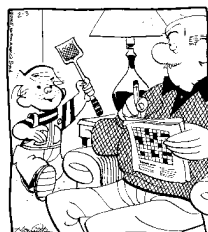
2-3

© 2005 Bl Kluge, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"That depends on how hard it's going to be."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



26.1

Tomjanovich era might be over

Coach considering resigning

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rudy Tomjanovich's tenure as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers might be finished after barely half a season.

Tomjanovich, who returned to coaching after recovering from bladder cancer, is contemplating resignation because of health concerns.

"He's considering several options and resigning is one of them. That decision has not been made," Lakers spokesman John Black said Tuesday — about six hours before the Lakers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 92-79 for their second straight victory after a season-high three games losing streak.

"This has nothing to do with cancer," Black said. "He loves the team and the team loves him. He's our head coach until he decides to do otherwise."

The game against the Trail Blazers was the second Tomjanovich missed because of what the team said was a stomach virus. Black said Tomjanovich has also had a sinus infection.

Assistant coach Frank Hamblen has led the Lakers to a pair of victories in Tomjanovich's absence.

"I don't even want to talk about it. I hope Rudy's back tomorrow. I hope he's back tomorrow," said Hamblen when asked about Tomjanovich's future.

Black said he had no idea when Tomjanovich would be back on the bench — if and when he stays on the job. The 56-year-old Tomjanovich signed a \$30 million, five-year contract last summer to succeed Phil Jackson.

"He has discussed this with the appropriate people in the organization," Black said. "When he does make a decision, it will be announced at the appropriate time."

Tomjanovich didn't return a phone message from The Associated Press.

Hamblen, a 57-year-old long-time NBA assistant, said he spoke with Tomjanovich on Monday night.

"He was OK. We did have a few laughs," Hamblen said, refusing to elaborate.

Hamblen said he hadn't spoken to Lakers owner Jerry Buss about the matter.

Several players, including star Kobe Bryant, seemed stunned by the news.

Bryant said he found out something when up when General Manager Mitch Kupchak called him.

"Everybody who here is still shocked and numb," Bryant said before Tuesday night's game. "I called him at the house as soon as I got here and left him a message. I just hope he's doing all right. We're all just as surprised as anybody else. Hopefully, he'll come back and continue coaching us. If he doesn't, we'll have to just kind of go from there. But our main concern is him as a person."

After cutting ties with Jackson and trading Shaquille O'Neal during the offseason, the Lakers haven't been close to the elite team they were the previous eight years, when O'Neal and Bryant led the way.

If the season ended today, the Lakers would be in the playoffs as the seventh-best team in the Western Conference.



Illinois' Luther Head, left, drives against Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert in the second half on Tuesday. Head led Illinois with 22 points.

No. 1 Illinois passes Michigan State test

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State coach Tom Izzo knows what it takes to win a national championship.

After watching No. 1 Illinois roll past his 12th-ranked team 81-66 on Tuesday night to remain undefeated, Izzo thinks the Illini could win it all.

"They have the ingredients to win a national championship," said Izzo, who led the Spartans to the title five years ago.

The Illini (22-0, 8-0 Big Ten) want to win it all, but insist they're not thinking about that right now or even about going into the NCAA tournament next month without a loss.

Instead, they are focused on playing well in every game.

"We've got to play at a special level every night, or we're going to lose. We know that," said De Brown, who scored 18 points.

"We know that, but I don't think the pressure is really on us because there are people who say we're going to lose. They can't wait to say, 'I told you so!'"

Illinois' next game is against Indiana on Sunday at home. Its remaining road games are at Michigan, Penn State and Iowa with home dates against Wisconsin, Northwestern and Purdue before the Big Ten tournament.

In each game, the nation will be watching the Illini to see if anybody can beat them, and Illinois coach Bruce Weber said his players are ready for the scrutiny.

"They like the limelight. They kind care it," Weber said. "Some of it is Dee's personality that rubs off on the rest of them. I don't think Luther (Head) was like that a year ago, but now he likes it, too."

"Our kids have a great competitive spirit. They have a huge will to win."

The only other unbeaten team in Division I, No. 5 Boston College kept pace with a 62-50 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday.

Luther Head scored 22 points to lead Illinois, which handed Michigan State (14-4, 5-2) its 12th straight loss against a ranked opponent, dating to the regional finals of the 2003 NCAA tournament.

"It was a killer," said Alan Anderson, who scored 14 points. "This really, really hurts."

Illinois put on a clinic on of-

Men's Top 25 Roundup

fense, with great spacing, unselfish passing and fabulous shooting.

"The open man takes the open shot," Head said. "That's what we live by."

The Illini made 13 of 24 three-pointers and during a 12-minute span in the second half, they made 12 shots in a row.

On the other end of the court, the Illini wouldn't let Michigan State get much done because they seemed to have their bodies, arms or hands in every passing lane. The Spartans had 13 turnovers, one was unforgotten.

"We disrupted some of their stuff," Weber said.

Michigan State's Paul Davis and Shannon Brown each scored 12 points while Maurice Ager and Reserve Kelvin Torbert both had 10.

Illinois led by 17 midway through the second half and was ahead 73-58 with 6:37 to go before the Spartans rallied to avoid a rout.

They pulled within seven twice, but the second time, Brown ended their comeback hopes with a three-point play on a driving layup that left him crumpled up against the basket support with 1:56 left.

No. 5 Boston College 62, West Virginia 50: Craig Smith scored 23 points and the Eagles (19-0, 8-0 Big East) matched the longest winning streak in school history, set in 1968-69. West Virginia got within 42-38 with 8:27 remaining, but the Eagles went on a 12-3 run that made it 54-41 with 3:10 to go. Jared Duda, who scored 15 points, and Jeremiah Watson, who has 15, each had four points in the run.

If the Eagles win Tuesday night at Seton Hall, they'll become the first Big East team to start a season 20-0.

Clemson 88, No. 22 Maryland 73: At Clemson, S.C., Sharron Ford tied the career high with 25 points, and the Tigers (11-10, 2-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a 13-game losing streak against Maryland.

John Gilchrist had 18 points for the visiting Terrapins (13-6, 4-0), who missed their final 13 shots of the half and fell behind 45-29.

90-footer creates a buzz

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

It was a baseball throw by a former starterback on a basketball court, and now Guilford College's Jordan Snipes has a career highlight he doesn't expect to top.

The 6-foot-4 sophomore rebounded a missed free throw with 0.6 seconds on the clock Monday night, wheeled around and threw a shot that swished through the hoop.

The buzzer sounded, giving the Quakers a 91-89 overtime victory against Randolph-Macon.

"I think it'll be my highlight," a weary Snipes said Tuesday afternoon, when he'd only slept for about 90 minutes since the miracle shot. "I thought if I went to sleep that it was just going to turn into a dream, and when I woke up it'd be over."

Snipes was having to grab the rebound and lean quickly against a Yellow Jackets player hoping to draw a "cheap foul," he said. But the shot came. The Randolph-Macon coaches tell their players to back away from the line when they shoot it up.

"When they did that, I couldn't get near anybody in seconds of a second, so I just took the ball and threw it," he said. "I didn't know what else to do."

The shot capped a career-best 34-point night for Snipes, who made six of seven three-pointers. And if that wasn't enough, he also scored the nation's most validation that college athletes care: recognition on SportsCenter's Top Ten plays of the day.

In fact, his play made it five times.

Several players were on cell phones on the bus back to North Carolina, where the 10 was about to air, Snipes said. His brother told him the play was No. 9.

"We were like, 'That's pretty cool. No. 9. At least we're on there,'" he said. "And then they said, 'You're No. 7! You're No. 5! And 3 and 1!' It was incredible. Awesome."

Guilford coach Tom Palombo has coached for 15 years and said he's never seen anything like the lucky freak play that unfolded at Crenshaw Gymnasium.

In fact, Palombo already was walking toward Randolph-Macon coach Mike Adams to shake hands when the flight of the ball caught their attention.

"I remember thinking it looked like it had a chance, and when it went through, it was just crazy," he said. "When the referee came and said it was good, I kind of jumped up and down when I was right next to [Rhoades]," he said. "I told him I was sorry."

"It was hard to control your emotions on a play like this," Adams said. "Adam Kravitz to miss the second free throw on purpose, following the conventional wisdom that six-tenths of a second is not much time to think."

He realized there might be trouble when he saw the ball in flight. "That's when it got to halfcourt, I said, 'This is going to be something,'" he said, adding almost apologetically that the shot clock should have expired before the shot.

Kings opt to retain Adelman through '06

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings exercised their one-year option on coach Rick Adelman on Tuesday, keeping him under contract through next season.

Even though Adelman has taken the Kings to the playoffs every year since coming to Sacramento in 1998, owners Joe and Gabe Maloof waited to see how the team started this season before deciding whether to pick up his option for 2005-06.

A solid start — Sacramento is 30-13 — despite several injuries was enough to earn Adelman another year.

Adelman's assistant coaches also will be retained, the team said.

McMillan to return on Sunday
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Coach Nate McMillan is scheduled to rejoin the Seattle SuperSonics for practice Sunday following

NBA briefs

ing the funeral of his mother this week in North Carolina.

The memorial service is Friday, but McMillan will miss Seattle's home game Saturday against Charlotte. Jeannette Turner will coach last Sunday.

McMillan is in Raleigh, N.C., dealing with family issues, and fourth-year associate head coach Dwane Casey is running the team in McMillan's absence.

Warriors' Robinson suspended

NEW YORK — Clifford Robinson of the Golden State Warriors was suspended for five games without pay Tuesday for violating the NBA's drug policy.

Robinson's suspension begins with Wednesday night's game against the Sacramento Kings.

A 16-year veteran, Robinson averaged 8.8 points and 2.6 rebounds in 40 games this season.

Sosa set to start anew with Orioles

BY DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Sammy Sosa could end a Baltimore Orioles' cap for the first time as soon as Wednesday, after he completes his physical and his trade from the Chicago Cubs is approved by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig. The Orioles on Tuesday set up a time for the slugger's physical and were making tentative plans for a news conference on Wednesday, even though the commissioner's office was awaiting final paperwork before forwarding the trade to Selig.

Sosa arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Tuesday night. "It's good to be here. I'm so happy to be in Baltimore," a smiling Sosa said.

Chicago would receive Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers for Sosa, whose up-and-down ride with the Cubs is nearing a conclusion. The Cubs would pay \$12 million of Sosa's \$17 million salary this year.

The swap cannot be completed without Selig's blessing because more than \$1 million will change hands, but no problems are anticipated. Selig has been apprised of the negotiations, and the remaining paperwork is expected to be submitted Wednesday.

Still missing is Sosa's waiver of his no-trade rights as a 10-year veteran with at least five years on the same team, and formal agreement to the restructuring of his contract by the league and union. Sosa's contract with Chicago contains a provision that calls for the team's \$18 million option for 2006 to become guaranteed if he is traded and for a \$19 million team option for 2007 to be added,

one that would carry a \$4.5 million buyout. As part of the trade, Sosa will sign an addendum to his contract voiding that provision.

In addition, Chicago is responsible for a \$3.5 million severance payment that must be made within 30 days of the deal. Baltimore becomes responsible for the 2006 option, which carries a \$4.5 million buyout.

The deal also is contingent upon Sosa passing the physical, which will be administered Wednesday by the Orioles team physician, Dr. Charles Silberstein.

Finalization of the trade can't happen soon enough for the Cubs, who are ready to sign free-agent outfielder Jeremy Burnitz to a one-year contract with a mutual option for 2006. That deal wouldn't be finalized until the Sosa trade is completed.

The Cubs initiated the swap with the Orioles in an effort to unload the 36-year-old Sosa, who was once a hero in Chicago. But his popularity and numbers dwindled the past two years, and the Cubs found him to be expendable after a season in which he hit .253 and struck out 133 times.

Yet his 35 homers were more than any Oriole hit in 2004, and his new teammates expect his bat to provide a reviver this season. "I'm looking for him to have a monster year," said Jay Gibbons, whose Sosa will replace in right field. "We needed a right-handed power hitter, and here's a guy who hit 35 despite missing time with a bad back. I'd say that makes the middle of the lineup pretty dangerous."

The addition of Sosa means Gibbons will move from right field to play at first base, where he played as a minor leaguer. "That's OK with me," Gibbons said. "If it helps us win, then this works to our benefit. This is my fifth year here, and it's time to start winning."

Sosa will certainly add punch to the lineup, but will he be a positive addition to the clubhouse? He was suspended for corking his bat in 2003, and last season he left early during the Cubs' final game and criticized manager Dusty Baker for nagging him to sixth in the batting order.

"Yeah, some things happened last year, but I'm sure there was a lot of stuff behind the scenes that we don't know about," Orioles outfielder Larry Bigbie said. "I think he will fit right in. Take away the last two years and give him a fresh start, and I bet everything will be fine."

Bigbie has spent much of the offseason in Indiana, about 20 minutes by outside Chicago. He knows what Cubs fans think of Sosa, and he expects that opinion might change by July.

"They're happy to have him out of Chicago, and I'm happy to have him in Baltimore. I think he'll be a great addition to the team and to the city," Bigbie said. "I might and up calling all the Cubs fans and saying what Cubs fans think of Sosa, and how many want him back. Maybe all he needs is a clean slate."

AP Sports Writers Nancy Armour in Chicago and Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

NCAA reforms look to take gitz out of recruiting trips

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As one of the top high school football players in the country, Dayleon Farr took recruiting trips to LSU, Miami, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

He toured the campuses, checked out the facilities, met some of the players and coaches and got a 48-hour live for life as a student-athlete at a football powerhouse.

But he didn't get to see his name in lights. As of last year, that's against the rules.

"I remember watching that in 'The Program,' and I was like, I can't wait until it's my turn to take my trip and I'll see my name on the scoreboard and get to run out on the field," said Farr, a tight end from Houston's North Shore High School.

High-profile scandals involving football recruits at Colorado and Miami prompted the NCAA to take what it called emergency action last summer.

No longer are schools allowed to woo prospects with rock star treatment. Fancy hotels, ritzy restaurants and private planes are now off limits. So are personalized jerseys and the use of simulated game-day activities, like the ones Farr saw in the movie "The Program," a 1993 film about a fictitious scandal-ridden college football team.

The NCAA also now requires schools to file a written recruiting policy with their conference or the NCAA.

NCAA vice president David Berra, who chaired the panel that came up with the reforms, says the goal is to change the philosophy of recruiting and stamp out the "culture of entitlement," as NCAA President Myles Brand referred to it.

"I think it remains to be seen if it has any long-term benefit of reducing the celebrity of the recruiting weekends," Berra said.

"You shouldn't win the recruiting war by a lobster tail. You should win by an academic

major, as foreign as that concept may be to some."

National signing day was Wednesday.

American Football Coaches Association executives Grant Teaff said most of the reforms have been well received by coaches.

"I haven't heard one word of complaint," he said. "I think we may get that after signing day."

He said many schools don't have the type of perks available to them — five-star hotels and restaurants, for example — that the NCAA outlawed using. But some do, and opposing coaches were happy to see the playing field leveled.

"You shouldn't win the recruiting war by a lobster tail. You should win by an academic major, as foreign as that concept may be to some."

David Berra
NCAA vice president

"I can't imagine offering our recruits five-star hotels or restaurants," new LSU coach Les Miles said.

"If staying where they have a hot tub in the room is important to them, this isn't the place for them."

New Mississippi coach Ed Orgeron was recruiting coordinator and defensive line coach for Southern California. He said the new restrictions did little to change how USC ran recruiting visits and he doesn't anticipate being a problem at Ole Miss.

"I really feel there's more focus on the weekend on things that really matter, such as academics and athletics," he said.

Rutgers coach Greg Schiano was disappointed that he had to stop taking root on the Scarlet Walk, following the path the Scarlet Knights take on game day into the their new stadium, where the prospects' names would be displayed on the scoreboard.

"I think that's big, a kid getting a feel for being a part of the program for 48 hours," said Schiano, entering his fifth year with Rutgers.

Teaff said the reform that prompted the most protest from coaches was prohibiting college's from using chartered or private planes to transport recruits.

About 35 Division I-A schools don't have a commercial airport nearby, Teaff said. It saves time for those schools to use their's, but as Teaff pointed out, "There's no private planes to get you there when you become a student."

"Coaches can use reality to a honest benefit," he said.

The NCAA's new rules were a response to two highly publicized embarrassments to college football.

Colorado was accused of using sex and alcohol to entice recruits. The scandal was set off by lawsuit filed by a woman who said she was raped by CU players or recruits in 2001.

At Miami, the Hurricanes offered a scholarship to a player who was already on probation when he was charged with hugging a woman without her permission and setting off hotel fire extinguishers while on a recruiting trip to the University of Florida. Miami eventually let star high school linebacker Willie Williams enroll.

Farr has given a verbal commitment to Miami and was expected to make it official Wednesday. As for missing out on his Hollywood moment as a recruit, he wasn't all that disappointed.

"It wasn't a big deal," he said. "I'll get that eventually."

Hall of Famer Berra sues over 'Sex' ad

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hall of Famer Yogi Berra has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against TBS, claiming the cable television network sullied his name by using it in a racy advertisement for its "Sex and the City" reruns.

Berra's papers, filed in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, say the Turner Broadcasting System Inc. ad, which has appeared on buses and in subways, caused "severe damage to his reputation" with its reference to Kim Cattrall's sexually promiscuous character Samantha.

The offending ad, Berra's court papers say, queried readers about the definition of "yogasm."

Possible definitions: (a) a type of yo-yo trick, (b) sex with Yogi Berra and what Samantha has with a guy from yoga class. The answer is (c).

The reference to the sexual act made in connection with Berra "engenders a moral taint that has damaged his otherwise spotless reputation," say his court papers, filed last week and posted on the smokinng.com Web site.

The 79-year-old Berra "is a married man and has children and grandchildren," his court papers say. "He is a deeply religious man who has maintained and continues to maintain a moral life-style and has a spotless reputation for integrity, decency and moral character."

Berra's lawyer Leslie Smoley, said he was told TBS stopped running the ad last August. But, he said, he wants the court to order the superstation to never run the ad again.

The Berra suit seeks \$5 million on each of two causes of action: commercial use of his name without permission and unjust enrichment by use of his name without permission.

A spokeswoman for TBS, based in Atlanta, said Tuesday: "We do not comment on litigation."

Berra, a catcher for the New York Yankees from 1946-63 who lives in Montclair, N.J., is one of baseball's most beloved and quotable players. He managed the Yankees and the New York Mets to pennants.

Don't Shortchange Your Body

The Performance
Appeal with the **Golden Eagle**
Specialty Designed for Military Personnel
Cookware • T-shirts • Socks & Underwear
www.sweetstout.com

Try Our New Flavor - Straight!

Breck
Habit![®]

Try Golden Eagle
Barrel Chive

A refreshing Alternative for smokers!
100% Natural Blend
5 Great Flavors:
Cinnamon • Watermelon
Hot Lick • Lavender Mint
& NEW TRIBUTE!

goldenagle@greatpaws.com
www.goldenaglecig.com

Neheise's 49ers interview called to question in court

Huskies' former athletic director testifies in former football coach's unfair dismissal suit

By TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Former Washington athletic director Barbara Hedges, testifying Tuesday in the trial of former football coach Rick Neuheise's unfair dismissal lawsuit, angrily defended her 2003 advice to Neuheise about a possible job with the San Francisco 49ers.

Hedges insisted she told her then-coach "to think about it" during a family vacation and then tell her if he planned to pursue the NFL opening.

Neuheise's lawyer, Bob Sulkin, asked Hedges if she had advised Neuheise "to work things out." Such words, he suggested, would indicate Hedges knew the coach was going to interview with the NFL team in February 2003.

"I did not," Hedges testified, her voice rising. "I told Rick Neuheise to think about it."

Neuheise has sued the university and NCAA, contending he was unfairly fired as Washington's coach and that the NCAA pressured the school to dismiss him. Testimony in his King County Superior Court trial began Monday.

The 49ers issue is key because university administrators contend Neuheise lied about his interest in the job and didn't tell Hedges before traveling to San Francisco for a job interview. After that, Hedges said Neuheise was warned privately that additional lies wouldn't be tolerated.

When he was fired four months later, in June 2003, Hedges said Neuheise wasn't forthcoming in fully questioning by NCAA investigators who were looking into his high-stakes gambling on NCAA basketball.

University lawyer Lou Peterson earlier told jurors the coach's conduct allowed him to be fired for dishonest acts.

Sulkin showed jurors a paragraph in Neuheise's contract, stating he was required to inform supervisors before interviewing for jobs with "other schools."

"He wasn't obligated under the contract with regard to professional terms," Hedges testified. "But as an employee of the University of Washington, I believe he was obligated to notify us for any other jobs."

Hedges admitted the contract language changed when Keith Gilbertson succeeded Neuheise as coach. In his contract, Gilbertson was required to notify Hedges before interviewing for "other coaching positions."

Hedges said, "I don't recall in his contract."

"You got it right?" Sulkin asked. "We got it right," she answered.

Sulkin asked Hedges about a quote attributed to her in a Seattle newspaper — that she had asked Neuheise "to work things out" regarding the 49ers job during a vacation in San Valley, Idaho.

Hedges said she was misquoted. She testified that Neuheise said only that he had been approached about the job by a third party.

"As far as I knew, Rick Neuheise had not been contacted by the 49ers and had shown very little interest in the job," Hedges said, adding that she knew Neuheise was going to Idaho on vacation.

"I told Rick, 'Go to San Valley and think about it, and we'll talk about it on Monday,'" Hedges testified.

While he was away, Neuheise interviewed in San Francisco.

After returning to Seattle, Neuheise insisted he wasn't a candidate and even insisted on a university release denying interest. Later that week, he admitted he had lied, saying he had to honor a confidentiality agreement with the NFL team.

Sulkin also questioned Hedges about an e-mail issued by Washington's former compliance director, Dana Richardson, that mistakenly authorized gambling by athletes.

NCAA rules prohibit employing by athletes, coaches and athletic department staffers and member schools.

Hedges admitted she did not read the



Attorney John Aslin (above), representing the NCAA, addresses the jury during his opening statement on Monday. Former football coach Rick Neuheise claims that NCAA administrators set him up and that University of Washington officials fired him wrongly.

e-mail when it first was distributed on March 13, 2003. The memo, a cornerstone of Neuheise's lawsuit, went to the entire Washington athletic staff.

Hedges testified she deleted it after glancing at the headline, "Reminder about NCAA rules on gambling."

Jurors were shown the text, which reads: "The bottom line is if you have friends outside ICA (intercollegiate athletics) ... you can participate. You cannot place a bet with a bookie or organize your own pool."

Asked by Sulkin why she deleted the e-mail, Hedges replied: "I knew very clearly the rules. You cannot in any way place bets on college athletics. I looked at it. I deleted it."

The memo resurfaced on June 5, 2003, one day after Neuheise was questioned by NCAA investigators. Hedges said her secretary handed her a copy of the e-mail, and she testified it was the first time she read the full text.

Hedges said she immediately called Washington's then-faculty athletic representative, Bob Aronson, who advised that the memo was issued concerning small-scale bets.

After that discussion, Hedges said she didn't believe the memo applied to Neuheise's gambling. He won \$18,523 in 2002 and 2003 in an auction-style pool with neighbors.

Another version of a salary cap offered to union

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL made its latest salary cap offer to the players' association on Wednesday as talks resumed aimed at ending the season-long lockout.

NHL briefs

Commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow again were absent as the sides met for the fifth time in two weeks. But the session featured the first proposal since mid-December when the league and union traded offers five days apart.

The NHL proposed a six-year deal that contained a cap that would force teams to spend at least \$32 million on player salaries but no more than \$42 million. Both figures would be adjusted each year to reflect changes in league revenues.

The players' association has vowed never to accept a salary cap as a solution. The lockout reached its 140th day Wednesday, and has forced the cancellation of 762 of 1,230 regular-season games plus the All-Star Game.

Bettman has promised the 30 NHL teams that he will get them cost certainty, a direct link between league revenues and players costs.

"This offer would give the players between 53 and 55 percent of league revenues."

Chelios, Hatcher, Draper sign to play in UHL.

FRASER, Mich. — Red Wings defenseman Chris Chelios and Derian Hatcher and forward Kris Draper signed with the Motor City Mechanics of the United Hockey League on Tuesday for the remainder of the season.

"I'm excited and nervous and looking forward to playing," Chelios said.

The addition of three NHL players should provide a boost for the struggling Mechanics (11-29-6), who are averaging just 1,500 per game in a building that holds 3,200.

Chelios, Hatcher and Draper will play in Motor City's home games and might join the first-year expansion team when it travels to Flint and Port Huron.

Players in the UHL — a league that is three rungs below the NHL — can't earn more than \$1,000 per week.

Hatcher, 32, was limited to 15 regular-season games and 12 playoff contests last season because of a knee injury and didn't want to miss another season.

"I just couldn't sit out for two years and try to come back at the National Hockey League-level," he said.

serve a second term as captain," Langer said. "I have officially informed the European Tour tournament committee ... that I have every intention of being a playing member of the 2006 European Team."

Sharapova wins in Tokyo

TOKYO — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova overcame a slow start Wednesday to beat Maria Vento-Kabchi of Venezuela 7-6 (3), 6-0 in the second round of the Pan Pacific Open.

U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov was defeated by qualifier Martin-Guyana-Mikaelian of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport will play her opener Thursday against Japan's Sora Obata.

Prosecutors expand probe in Germany's soccer scandal

FRANKFURT, Germany — Four referees and 14 players are among 25 people suspected of fixing at least 10 games in Germany's widening soccer scandal, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Police raided the homes of 19 people across the country Wednesday and seized bank accounts and property worth about \$3.17 million, the Berlin prosecutors' office said in a statement. There were no arrests.

Part owner of ABA team hospitalized after in-game firing

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Hours after storming the court and firing her coach, Nashville Rhythm part-owner Sally Anthony was rushed to a hospital following a 911 call by a relative who said she had tried to "hurt herself."

A relative called 911 about 6 a.m. EST Sunday to report that Anthony was hurting herself, according to a 911 tape obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"My sister-in-law is in her apartment right now, and she has taken some pills and mixed it with alcohol and taken scissors and cut up her arms," said the caller, who identified herself as Susan.

Hours earlier, Anthony marched onto the court in the third quarter of the Rhythm's 110-109 victory over Kansas City, demanding that coach John McElhenny bench a player and then told the coach she was fired. Security guards had to escort Anthony off the court.

Anthony is one of three owners of Nashville's American Basketball Association franchise, which made McElhenny the first female coach of a men's professional team last May.

Anthony, an aspiring pop singer, and her husband and Rhythm co-owner Tony Bander, did not immediately respond to e-mail and fax messages seeking comment Tuesday.

The 911 caller told a dispatcher that Anthony had taken the anti-depressant Xanax, and was passing out every few seconds. The caller also told the dispatcher that her sister-in-law could become violent.

The dispatcher asked the caller if she thought it was a suicide attempt. The caller said, "I don't know if she really meant to hurt herself. She definitely meant to hurt herself."

The 30-year-old Anthony was taken by ambulance to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was treated for cuts on her arm and released Sunday. She was quoted in different reports as saying she felt and also that she was bitten by a dog.

The woman who called 911 did not immediately return a telephone message from the AP on Tuesday. A woman who identi-

fied herself as Anthony's mother told The Tennessean on Monday that it was "a total lie" to suggest that her daughter mixed pills with alcohol and tried to cut herself.

The only official word from the team in the three days since the bizarre episode, the Rhythm owners issued a statement Tuesday apologizing to McElhenny.

"The ownership of the Nashville Rhythm would like to apologize to Ashley McElhenny, our fans, Lipscomb University, the city of Nashville, and our sponsors for the incident," the statement said.

The team said it was reviewing the incident and hoped to have a decision "on a course of action as soon as possible."

McElhenny, who has led the Rhythm to an 18-7 record, declined to comment.

Langer will not return as Europe's 2006 Ryder Cup captain

LONDON — Bernhard Langer will not return as European captain for the 2006 Ryder Cup, opening the way for Ian Woosnam or Nick Faldo to take over.

Langer, the two-time Masters champion who led Europe to a 18½-9½ victory over the United States last year at Oakland Hills, announced his decision in a statement Wednesday.

"I wish to end all speculation that I will



Sally Anthony

First things first for Pats assistant Weis

After Super Bowl, offensive coordinator heads to Notre Dame full time

BY TERRY BANNON
Chicago Tribune

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Charlie Weis is working this week with a Notre Dame cell phone in his left pocket, his personal cell in his right and the gaudy Super Bowl ring from last season on his right hand.

Notre Dame's new coach is spending his final days living in two worlds and juggling two of the most high profile jobs in football — coach at Notre Dame and offensive coordinator for the reigning Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

"This time of year you have to suck it up," Weis said Tuesday.

"Two of the most important days in football — college signing day is Wednesday and we're preparing for the Super Bowl; you can find enough energy."

Energy hasn't been an issue for Weis, but holding down two jobs has complicated his first recruiting class.

It won't include wide receiver David Nelson from Wichita Falls, Texas, who opted for Florida, where the Patriots' victory over Pittsburgh in the AFC championship game Jan. 23 prevented what he and his father wanted —

a face-to-face meeting with Weis. "I told them that's not the type of kid we're looking for," Weis said. "I said if they want the Patriots to come to Notre Dame, then you go somewhere else because I'm not into losing, and that's what I told him very clearly, and he understood what my point of view was."

Nelson said Tuesday it wasn't that simple. He also liked Florida's tradition, new coach Urban Meyer and its offense. But to Notre Dame, it did not come as a coincidence Nelson announced for the Gators the day after the Patriots won the AFC title.

"That's not what I'm about," said Nelson, who added he did not want New England to lose. "I just told him meeting the head coach is very important to me, at the same time, it's not that important. For some reason, I worded something wrong and it got blown way out of proportion."

Weis' first recruiting class still could be good, though. Weis said he won't use all his scholarships.

"I want a full year in recruiting and take those extra few he didn't use this year and take an extra few next year," he said.

Weis was coming from behind in recruiting after replacing the

fired Tyrone Willingham. He knows the Super Bowl exposure will come too late to help on signing day. But he's convinced all the free advertising he will get Sunday night will help down the road.

"I think that for any sophomore and junior in high school who's watching their head coach out here working the sidelines [in the Super Bowl] for the third time in four years, if that doesn't make an impression, I don't know what's going to," Weis said.

"I'll be the type of class who fits the prototype of guys we're looking for. I'm not looking for volume, I want to sign ones who'll be the foundation for the program. Anyone can go

in and fill out the bottom of the roster and take another four or five guys at the end that's not what we're looking for. We don't want to put a number and say, they got 19. We want the right 19."

It has been said recruiting is the lifeblood of college football.

Weis said he can't wait to get pumping full time.

"I'm going to recruit like they haven't been recruited before, and that's not a slight on Ty or Bob [Davie] or anyone before me,

"I'm not a martyr here. It was a lot of hours, but for a short period of time. I'm not dropping dead."

Charlie Weis
Pats offensive coordinator/
Notre Dame head coach



New England Patriots offensive coordinator Charlie Weis has been pulling double duty since being hired as head coach at Notre Dame.

but I have a passion for recruiting," Weis said. "I really enjoy doing it."

His recruiting was limited by his commitment to finish his job with the Patriots.

"Right now, when you're down to a handful of guys, there's a reason they're down to you, and make sure you've given them the answers," Weis said. "If they go somewhere else you can't cry over it, you move on. You have a bunch of guys back at the ranch [in South Bend] to get this thing right. All you can do is control what you can."

"Beating the Eagles will help Notre Dame. So right now, what can I control? I can't control too much with these guys who are on the fence on the last day, but I can do everything I can to help us beat the Eagles. There are going to be 100 million people watching. I'm representing the Patriots first, but I'm representing Notre Dame, too, because the next day, I'm there."

In a sense, he's already there. His wife Maura already has picked out their new home in South Bend, which Weis has not seen. He plans to start working in South Bend on Feb. 10.

Weis was in South Bend last weekend after the Patriots finished installing their Super Bowl game plan. It was a whirlwind trip to meet some recruits.

He flew to South Bend, arriving at midnight last Thursday and surprised his players at 6 a.m. workout session. Then there was a staff meeting, more meetings with recruits and a flight back to New England. By 6 the next morning, he had watched the tape of the practice he had missed in preparation for Saturday's workout.

When he accepted the Notre Dame job with the understanding he would finish his work with the Patriots, Weis and coach Bill Belichick worked out a schedule. Weis would take some time in the evening to call some recruits, then go back to his Patriots work about 11 p.m.

"I told my wife, 'Hon, we're in training camp mode,' because that's what camp is like — meetings at night and back up at 5:30 in the morning," Weis said. "Time management is what gets you through."

In addition, Belichick assigned aide Shane Waldron to screen calls on Notre Dame issues while Weis was doing his Patriots work. "I'm had a martyr here," Weis said. "It was a lot of hours, but for a short period of time. I'm not dropping dead."

"Right now, I'm looking forward to two things, our guys playing well Sunday and obviously a new influx of blood coming into Notre Dame tomorrow."

MILITEC-1
SYNTHETIC WEAPONS LUBRICANT

A Force Multiplier

The New Standard for
Desert Warfare

- Weapons do not jam
- Weapons clean up with a dry rag
- Dry impregnated lubrication™

Attention Troops

- Go to www.militec.com and click for your FREE supply of MILITEC-1.
- Or call us Collect for your FREE supply of MILITEC-1 at (301) 893-3910.
- Unlimited supply of MILITEC-1 for our Troops. Free shipping, too!

Militec, Inc.
11828 Pika Drive
Waldorf, Maryland 20602
(877) 222-5512
© 2005 Militec, Inc.

NSNC:
1 oz, case of 10, 9150-01-415-9112
4 oz, case of 12, 9150-01-415-9114

Spare Tire Carrier



This kit can supply the accessories to allow you to modify a HUMVEE equipped with or without an existing bumper to accept our Patented Mechanically Assisted Spare Tire Carrier (MASC) and Jerry Can Holder (JCH). Both Systems rotate out of way of the back of the vehicle to access to the rear compartment:

- ✓ Spare Tire Carrier allows one person to easily change the tire
- ✓ Optional tool/storage box available
- ✓ Bumper assembly kit allows those HUMVEE's without bumpers to easily add MASC & JCH
- ✓ Retains existing tie down hooks, electrical connector and trailer hitch
- ✓ Will not interfere with towing a trailer
- ✓ All parts are powder coated to prevent corrosion

Email us a picture of you
with our product and we'll
send you a FREE Test T-Shirt
Call 1-800-555-5555
www.ibistek.com

Ibis Tek CSA#CS-07F-5506R
www.ibistek.com

'Moo': Running with the herd on media day

BY NICHOLAS J. COTSONIKA

Detroit Free Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — You're a reporter. Your mission: Ask Terrell Owens a question.

Ordinarily, it wouldn't be that difficult. Owens loves to talk. He never met a mike he didn't like. But the injured Philadelphia wide receiver has become the center of attention at Super Bowl XXXIX because he intends to defy his doctor and play against New England on Sunday.

And this is media day, when story-gathering is such a spectacle it becomes a story itself.

"You can't really understand it until you experience it," New England offensive lineman Gene Muczkowski said. "It's just unreal. It shows you how popular football is, the number of people who cover this."

About 2,000 reporters converged Tuesday on Alltel Stadium, as they will on Ford Field next year for Super Bowl XL.

There were the usual suspects: the radio, television and newspaper reporters who follow games for a living. But there were unusual people, too, like the guy from Nickelodeon dressed in an orange, green and black superhero outfit.

The reporters were picked up at their hotels, dropped off by the busload, ushered through security checkpoints and led to a mid-level stadium restaurant.

The place was really a holding pen, and when the event began, bag, glass, garage-style doors rolled up, and the media stampeded down the stands to field level. There was more than one sarcastic "moo."

Whereas Sunday is game time for players, media day is game



New England Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri addresses journalists during Super Bowl media day on Tuesday.

time for reporters. The scorebook clock counts down from 60 minutes. There is a two-minute warning.

And there is fierce competition. The ratio is about 20 reporters to one player, but because the teams go one at a time and everyone wants to talk to the same few guys, it can be much worse.

The stars sit on platforms. There are microphones in front of them and speakers to their sides, so you can hear everything they

say. If you want to get a word in edgewise, you have to jockey for position.

"You've got to be aggressive," said Eagles linebacker Dhani Jones, who covered the Patriots at media day last year as a reporter for the NFL Network. "Man, my shoes got all dirty because I was trying to rush to the front."

There are the tedious questions, stuff the athletes have answered many times before, like, "Who was your favorite player growing up?"

There are the stupid questions, like, "If you were a tree, what kind would you be?"

William (Refrigerator) Perry, the former Chicago Bear, was working for "Jimmy Kimmel Live." He asked Patriots quarterback Tom Brady who he was rooting for in the Super Bowl.

"I don't know, Fridge," Brady said. "Who are you rooting for?"

Radio and television people beg for promos. That's why Muczkowski was seen snapping a ball

to a Mexican television talent in front of a camera, and teammate Troy Brown was heard saying into a microphone, "This is Troy Brown coming to you live on ORF!"

You have a good question. You have a real purpose. You're going to get the hard news, how Owens' ankle is, if he really will play Sunday.

So you get past the guy from TV Azteca and keep from tripping over the tripod set up in the middle of the dirt path by TV2 Denmark.

Without throwing any elbows, thank you, you make your way through the crowd surrounding Owens, now at least 10-people deep.

You're in danger of getting whacked in the head with a boom mike or getting a whiff of some really bad B.O., but you're ready for T.O.

Owens is playfully asking everyone to talk to someone else.

"Jeremiah Trotter's on the cover of Sports Illustrated," Owens says of his teammate, seated in front of a relatively sparse crowd of a couple of platforms down. "Can he get a little love?"

No one is moved. No one moves.

"OK," Owens says. "You can officially start."

You try to master the art of shouting your question, quickly enough that they're heard before any other reporter, but not so quickly that you cut off the athlete, seem rude and lose all hope of him acknowledging you.

Amid the cacophony, someone else asks what you were trying to ask.

"I will be here on Sunday," Owens said. "I will play."

Oh, well. Close enough.

River adjoining stadium adds to security challenge

BY FRED GOODALL

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The scenic St. John's River presents a unique challenge for law enforcement agencies responsible for developing a security plan for the city's first Super Bowl.

The federal waterway runs alongside Alltel Stadium and right through the heart of downtown Jacksonville, posing unprecedented safety concerns because all boats — from jet skis to cruise ships — have to be checked and rechecked.

NFL vice president for security Milt Aherlich called the river "a unique aspect of this Super Bowl" but also downplayed the impact it had on the security plan Tuesday.

"We are very pleased with what we have seen here," Aherlich said. "We have complete confidence in our fans, our teams, our employees will be safe — not just at the game but at the many other events."

Although Aherlich and Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford said the three-pronged approach to Super Bowl security — via land,

air and sea — was the first of its kind, they also said it was merely an additional part of a detailed security plan.

Jet skis are being banned on the river, largely because of the cruise ships. Only certain private boats, whose owners own permits in a lottery, are allowed on the river. And Coast Guard divers are regularly inspecting the bottom of the ships, plus keeping other boats a safe distance away.

The tie tin: Philadelphia linebacker Dhani Jones tried to make the most of media day — by selling bow ties.

Jones started wearing bow ties while working as a reporter for the NFL Network during the 2003 playoffs, and has since developed his own company, Five Star Bow Ties. They are available on his Web site, www.dhanis5.com, for \$75 apiece.

Jones, fourth on the team with 90 tackles, used the Super Bowl's biggest media event to hawk his merchandise. He had several colorful samples of the silk ties,

handed out business cards and even showed people how to tie them.

"If you're going to accomplish anything in the world, you should do it in style. And there's no better style than a bow tie," he said.

Paying the cost: Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell says he'll pay his own way when he travels to Florida for Sunday's game.

Rendell said Tuesday he bought tickets for himself, his wife, Midge, and their son, Jesse, and declined an offer of two complimentary tickets from the team. Rendell paid a face value of \$540 for each ticket, said his spokeswoman, Kate Phillips.

Rendell will fly to Jacksonville on Thursday on a private plane chartered by the Eagles, returning to Pennsylvania on Monday. Jesse and Midge are flying on a commercial jet, Phillips said.

"I'm paying for myself, Midge and Jesse," the governor said.

Rendell, who has provided post-game commentary for Comcast SportsNet, also will do so as part of the channel's Super Bowl coverage.

He added that "we're all paying

for our own hotel rooms, although I do get a hotel room on Friday and Saturday night from Comcast, which I may use."

Mitchell mad at media services: Philadelphia receiver Freddie Mitchell fired another verbal shot. This one, though, was at his own organization.

Mitchell said he was no longer speaking to Derek Boyko, the team's director of media services.

"I'm not even talking to Derek Boyko anymore because they didn't even have a podium for me," Mitchell said at the Super Bowl's official media day.

Boyko downplayed the comments, saying Mitchell was probably joking. But Mitchell, who loves the spotlight, appeared serious.

Eleven players, including just-signed backup tight end Jeff Thomson, addressed reporters from a podium, while others were assigned a specific location in the stands.

Mitchell might have been bumped from his spot because he missed New England's secondary last week. Known more for his big mouth than making big plays,

the Eagles' other loquacious receiver — the one without the All-Pro pedigree and ankle injury — said he didn't know the names of most of the defensive backs. He also took a dig at Pats safety Reggie Harrison.

"I think they're in hiding me from the media," said Mitchell, who caught 22 passes for 377 yards and two touchdowns this season.

Snoozy attire: Tampa Bay Buccaneers' defensive end Simeon Rice and former Chicago Bears defensive tackle William "Refrigerator" Perry were among the celebrities posing as journalists on media day.

Rice was easy to spot because of the hooded black and white and gray chinchilla fur jacket he was wearing, and the Fridge was just as easy to find because he still appears to weigh close to 400 pounds.

Rice, working for the NFL Network this week, is a former high school teammate of Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb. Asked how far back he goes with the Eagles' quarterback, Rice quipped: "Underwear and diapers."

Reports claim Smith retiring on Thursday

Career rushing leader elusive about plans

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader and a three-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys, was expected to announce his retirement Thursday, according to media reports.

Smith, a free agent who played the last two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, will make the announcement three days before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the reports Tuesday.

The 35-year-old running back, who holds the NFL record for most rushing yards and most rushing touchdowns, was as elusive about his plans as he was on the field.

"Did you see my year last year? Do you think I'm ready to retire?" he told The Dallas Morning News for a story posted Tuesday on its Web site.

ESPN.com and the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram also reported Tuesday that Smith would retire. ESPN.com cited "confidants" of the star running back that it did not identify, but news-papers cited unidentified sources.

An eight-time Pro Bowler and the league's most valuable player in 1993, Smith holds the career rushing touchdown record with 115. He has 18,355 yards and 164 TDs overall.

Smith played 13 years in Dallas. He said Monday that he wanted to retire as a member of the Cowboys.

Reliable and durable despite carrying a heavy load over years, Smith broke Walter Payton's rushing record with the Cowboys in 2002 but signed with Arizona the next season as an unrestricted free agent. His first year with the Cardinals in 2003 proved frustrating. For the first time in



Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader has rushed for 18,355 yards in 15 seasons, including 937 last season with the Arizona Cardinals.

his career, an injury sidelined him for a significant period and he struggled to gain yards when healthy enough to play.

But he bounced back this season, rushing for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals, who — despite their 6-10 record — showed signs of improvement under new head coach Dennis Green.

Neither the Cardinals nor Cowboys had any announcements planned regarding Smith.

Crennel not saying much about possible new job

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Just about everyone at the Super Bowl acknowledges that Romeo Crennel will be the Cleveland Browns' next head coach. Everyone except Crennel.

The New England defensive coordinator spoke about the Browns job at media day Tuesday, never admitting he's headed to Cleveland after Sunday's game with the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I don't have the job, I am employed with the New England Patriots," he said. "The rules in the NFL say that is tampering; no one talks to me as long as I work for the Patriots. And I work for the Patriots."

"After this game, if Cleveland decides to offer me a job, then I'll talk about that job."

The Browns reportedly are ready to do just that. They were allowed to interview him in early January when the Patriots had a bye before their first playoff game.

Crennel, 57, spent one year with the Browns as Chris Palmer's defensive coordinator in 2000, when the defense had 42 sacks, improving by 17 over 1999.



Crennel believes that was a courtesy because Cleveland already had decided to hire Butch Davis.

Davis quit with five games remaining this season. Crennel replaced as the top candidate to replace him after the interviewing process. Also interviewed were Eagles offensive coordinator Brad Childress; Browns interim coach and offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie; and Steelers offensive line coach Russ Grimm.

Bruschi going to Pro Bowl

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — New England Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi on Tuesday was added to the Pro Bowl roster for the first time, replacing injured Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis.

Added to the NFC team on Tuesday was Carolina Panthers linebacker Mark Fields.

Fields, who was designated as a first alternate, replaces Tampa Bay's Derrick Brooks, who will miss the Feb. 13 game in Hawaii with a knee injury.

Driver creates stir with comments on Favre's future

BY TOM SILVERSTEIN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Perhaps the biggest stir made on Super Bowl XXXIX media day came a mile away from where the Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots gathered for interviews.

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Donald Driver told interviewers during a trip through radio row at the Super Bowl media center that he thinks quarterback Brett Favre is going to retire. Driver, in town for a charity event benefiting area schools, created quite a buzz with his comments.



Favre
A news conference to announce Favre's retirement was investigating its legitimacy.

When asked about Favre's possible retirement, Driver told Siri-

us NFL radio, "Everyone has been asking me that question. He's a real close friend of mine, and we've been talking back and forth, and I think he's pretty much going to hang 'em up."

Asked if he thought Favre had made up his mind, Driver said, "I think so. I think he was trying to wait until the draft, and I think coach (Mike) Sherman wanted to know right before free agency because there're a couple of quarterback free agents that they want to look at if Brett decided not to come back."

"I think they forced him to make a decision. When you force one of the greatest quarterbacks in the NFL to make a decision,

he's pretty much going to let you know that he may be just hanging 'em up."

Shortly after Sirius e-mailed Driver's comments to reporters around the country, the Packers issued a statement saying nothing had changed regarding Favre's status. They said he has not informed the Packers of his decision whether to return for the 2005 season.

Favre's agent, James (Bus) Cook, was unavailable for comment.

In an interview later in the day, Driver stood by his comments that he thought Favre would retire, but he said he had no direct knowledge of Favre's intentions

and had not spoken to the Packers' quarterback since shortly after the season had ended with a 31-17 playoff loss to Minnesota on Jan. 9.

A source close to Driver confirmed that he had not received any recent indication from Favre regarding his future.

Nevertheless, Driver wasn't backing down from his feeling that 2004 was Favre's last season in the National Football League. He said he and Favre talked about different times several days after the Vikings loss and his gut feeling was that the 35-year-old Favre wasn't going to return for a 15th season.

Fainful: More than one doctor thinks Eagles' Owens should sit

PAINFUL, FROM BACK PAGE

Part of the testimony in the trial dealt with the fact that Novak, worried about his future with the team, felt pressure to play. The defendants said Novak didn't treat the injury the way he should have.

While Owens doesn't seem to be encountering any pressure from the Eagles to take the field, he talks as though he will be the only survivor of his fate Sunday.

"God brought me here for a reason. He put me here to show who he is and how powerful he is," he said.

But there's a big difference between prayer and hard science, and Owens' own personal physician, Mark Myers, isn't the only doctor who thinks the receiver should sit this one out.

"I think the guy's out of his

mind," said Ken Wong, a family physician in Bakersfield, Calif. "That's a serious injury and what he doesn't realize is that if he doesn't allow the healing process to take place, there could be a lot more trouble."

Willis Reed, Jack Youngblood, Curt Schilling: Those men are the authors of heroic comeback stories everyone has heard.

Novak, Terrell Davis. Curt Marsh. They are the subjects of cautionary tales about guys who rushed back and paid a big price.

Davis tried to return quickly from knee injury and regretted it, saying it hastened the end of his career.

Marsh, a lineman for the Oakland Raiders, pushed through with a broken ankle in the 1980s. He won a Super Bowl ring — "a nice bauble," he called it in an interview with Newsday.

He would trade it, though, he said, if he could have his foot back. Unable to stand the pain after 12 unsuccessful surgeries, surgery No. 13 was the one where doctors amputated the foot.

If Owens plays Sunday, there's a good chance things will turn out fine. There's a chance of a gruesome injury. There's also a chance that he could do damage that nobody will know about for a year, or the rest of his life.

"You've got short-term risks, like one of the screws bending, and you've got long-term risks, the kind of things you won't know about until much later," said Freddie Fu, a surgeon at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "If you want it to heal perfectly, logically you need more time. But if you don't want to miss this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, well, then maybe you take the chance."

There are financial issues to take into account, although they're just as extreme as one might think.

The only guaranteed money in the NFL comes from the signing bonus, and Owens earned \$10 million when he signed his seven-year deal with the Eagles in the offseason. He's scheduled to make \$32 million in base salary over the next six years. That contract, however, would likely be reworked after 2006, at which point Owens would be an 11-year veteran. Add it all up and it means he would realistically be leaving about \$4 million on the table if Sunday is his last game. That's less than 20 percent of what he has earned up to now.

Regardless of whether it's a lot or a little money, any doctor who clears him to play would be putting himself at risk of a lawsuit if

Owens is injured further. Ask the guy Novak used. He's in private practice now, having not quite turned his contract with the Jaguars into the cash cow many doctors who associate themselves with NFL teams hope for.

"I love football, but I'd never be a doctor for a football team," Wong said. "Coaches want them to play. Owners want them to play. I just wouldn't want to get involved in the medical-legal aspects of that."

To hear him tell it, this isn't about the money for Owens. All he really wants out of this week is a Super Bowl ring — that "nice bauble" every professional player covets but few ever get.

"This is what you go for training camp for. This is why you go through all this hard sweat and tears. This game is the pinnacle."

It doesn't get any better than this, Owens said.

SPORTS



League makes new offer to players' association, but it still includes cap, Page 28

Sports' painful precedents

Eagles wide receiver Owens not first in going against doctors' orders

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Here's one story Terrell Owens has probably never heard: A little-known backup offensive lineman, his leg dripping with blood, pleaded with doctors to be taken to the hospital.

No, the doctors said, it was time to board the airplane and fly back home.

Hours before that, Jacksonville Jaguars lineman Jeff Novak had played three quarters of an exhibition game on a steamy night in Charlotte, knowing he needed to be out on the field to try to save his job. As it turned out, that night would essentially mark the end of his NFL career.

At first blush, Novak's story doesn't appear to have much in common with that of Owens, superstar receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Except for this: By rushing his return from a broken ankle and playing in the Super Bowl on Sunday in the same stadium where Novak used to play, Owens risks bringing his career to a premature close, just like Novak did six seasons ago during that preseason game.

What price glory? Owens, who was at his bombastic best Tuesday in insisting he would be on the field come gametime, is only the latest in a long string of players to bring that question to the fore.

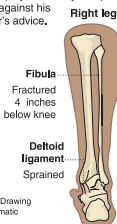
"If it were my son," said Andrew Kirschner, a doctor of osteopathic manual medicine, "I'd say 'Stay home. Tomorrow's another day.'"

Of course, tomorrows on football's biggest stage are far from guaranteed for these players, many of whom play all their life for a chance with a Super Bowl, the way Owens can Sunday.

Owens knows the history. The Eagles fell one victory short of the Super Bowl three

Owens' injury

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, who suffered a high ankle sprain and a fracture to the fibula in December, says he will play in Sunday's Super Bowl against his doctor's advice.



NOTE: Drawing is schematic

Source: Philadelphia Eagles

straight years before he got here. Then he came and the team got over the hump.

No matter that Philadelphia played the last four games without him, while he nursed the ankle he broke in a game Dec. 19. As everyone with the Eagles will admit, Owens was a big part of helping them get this far.

And hearing him Tuesday, it's clear he's not going to let a little injury, or his doctor's foreboding advice, keep him from taking center stage come Sunday.

"I'll be at 81 percent," said Owens, who wears No. 81.

"They've shown what they can do without me, now they'll show what they can do with me. The Eagle 8-1 is back!"

After he retired, Novak won \$2 million in a malpractice lawsuit settlement, claiming the Jaguars team doctor improperly treated a bone bruise that ugly night in Carolina, which led to infections that ended his career.

SEE PAINFUL ON PAGE 31



KRT

Philadelphia Eagles WR Terrell Owens, who suffered a severe ankle injury on Dec. 19, says he will play in the Super Bowl against his doctor's advice. "I'll be at 81 percent," Owens, who wears No. 81 said Tuesday.



AP

The bloody sock reflected the dedication of Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, who took the mound in the World Series with a dislocated ankle tendon held together by suture.

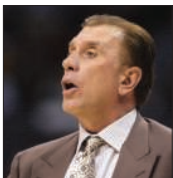


Former Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis (30), who was the MVP of Super Bowl XXXII and the NFL MVP the following season after rushing for 2,008 yards, says that rushing back from a knee injury prematurely shortened his career.

AP

Lakers coach Tomjanovich considering resigning because of health concerns

Page 26



No. 1 Illinois, No. 5 BC remain unbeaten with victories over Michigan State, West Virginia

Page 26



Reports claim NFL's career rushing leader Emmitt Smith will retire on Thursday

Page 31

Sosa, Orioles anticipate completion of trade after physical Page 27